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IN THE OFFICE OF THE

SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH,

CONFORMABLY TO ACTS

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

FEBRUARY 15, 1851, & MARCH 1, 1852.

BY

SAMUEL HAZARD.

COMMENCING 1776.

VOLUME V.

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PHILADELPHIA:
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1853.

Dr. Benj. Rush to Owen Biddle, 1776.

Aug. 1776.

Dr Sir:

I find our Counsel of Safety have just received a supply of money from the Congress, you will therefore much Oblige me by laying our acct before them. I hope you will not forget the extraordinary services to the artillery company, &c. not mentioned in the vote of the late Committee of Safety respecting our Salery. You will find the day we left off attending the boats by looking for the date of Dr Dunlap, (the present Surgeon's) appointment.

Yours affectionately,

B. RUSH.

Tuesday.

Directed.

Mr Owen Biddle.

Men in Actual Pay in the Service of Pennsylvania First of August, 1776.

List of Men in Actual Pay, Officers included, in the Service of the State of Pennsylvania, to the first of August, 1776, as ꝑ the Muster Rolls.

First Battallⁿ of Pennsyl. Rifle Regimt. S. Miles, Esqr., Col.

L. Farmer's	Company,	78
P. Albright's	do.	84
A. Llong's	do.	51
H. Shades	do.	72
R. Brown's	do.	62
C. Weitzall's	do.	70
		—417

over, 417

Second Batall^n.

J. Murry's	do.	71	
P. Grub's	do.	68	
J. Marshall's	do.	78	
W. Peebles'	do.	91	
J. Irwin's	do.	58	
H. Christ's	do.	64	
		—430	—847

Battall^n of Musquetry. S. J. Atlee, Esqr., Col.

P. Anderson's Company,		49	
P. Z. Lloyd's	do.	38	
F. Merry's	do.	49	
Jos. McClellan's	do.	50	
A. Dehuff's	do.	59	
T. Herbert's	do.	55	
J. Nice's	do.	50	
J. Howell's	do.	47	
		—	397
			1244
Capt T. Proctor's Comp^y of Artillery,			121
			—1365

The Navy, vizt.

Ship Montgomery,	Saml. Davison, Esq.,	138
Floating Battery,	Lieu^t. J. Hennesey,	82
Congress,	Jno. Hambleton,	41
Franklin,	Nathan Boyce,	46
Effingham,	H. Montgomery,	25
Dickenson,	John Rice,	33
Chatham,	Jam^es Montgomery,	34
Hancock,	Thos. Moore,	47
Warren,	Thos. Houstin,	24
Burke,	James Blair,	20
Cambden,	Rich^d. Ayres,	35
Bull Dog,	Alex^r. Henderson,	41
Washington,	H. Dougherty,	43
Experiment,	Lieu^t. B. Thompson,	28
Ranger,	Lieu^t. R^t. Hinne,	30
Sallamander,	Charles Lawrence,	15
Porcupine,	R^t. Tatnell,	12
Brimstone,	W. Watkin,	11
Terror,	R^t. Hardie,	18
Vulture,	W. Greenway,	11
Eagle,	Jacob Hance,	12
		741

		over,	741	1365
Fire Brig Vesuvius,	Edwd. Bingley,	5		
do. Sloop Etna,	W. Gamble,	4		
		—	9	
Sloop Hetty,	H. Hoover,	3		
do. Defyance,	A. Gardner,	3		
Schoon^r Lydia,	J. Simpson,	5		
Sloop Sally,	M. Wirt,	7		
		—	18	768
Total amount of Fleet & Land forces in the Service of the State of Pennsyl^a to the 1st August, 1776,			—	2133

LOD^k. SPROGEL, M. M.

Directed.

Estimate to 1st August, 1776.

For

The Council of Safety.

Col. S. Miles to Committee, 1776.

Camp at Amboy, Augt 2^d, 1776.

Gentlemen:

There is now a month's pay due to the troops under my Command; you must be sensible that punctual payment of Troops is of the utmost importance to the army, as it prevents uneasiness & mutiny, and without it proper discipline cannot be kept up. I therefore hope you will Order the immediate payment of those under your care. I have had too much Trouble already not to be anxious about their pay, & hope you will excuse my troubling you on this subject.

I am, Gentlemen, your most
Obedient
H'ble Servt,
SAM^l. MILES.

Directed.

To the Honble Committee of Safety for Pennsylvania.

Col. Atlee to Committee, 1776.

Perth Amboy, August 2d, 1776.

Sir,

The service of the State at the time I recd orders, absolutely required the march of the Battalion of Musqutteers under my Command, altho they were by no means prepared. The agent appointed to provide the troops in necessaries has been extremely deficient, numbers of the Battalion are now without either shirts, Breeches or stockings, articles not to be procured here. I should be extremely obliged to the Committee to order a Quantity of the above articles to the Battalion, for in their present state, the soldier cannot be kept clean, and consequently will be unhealthy, they with great justice complain for want of necessaries, and was it not for the strictness of discipline kept up, I should be difficulted to keep them to their duty. Were we situated any other were than in the Face of the Enemy I should look upon it as a piece of cruelty to keep so strict a stand over them in the Condition they are, but the least relaxation might be of infinite disservice. I must therefore earnestly beg that at least 500 shirts and pair of stockings with a 100 pair of leather breeches may be sent as soon as possible.*

After laying before your Hon'ble board the State of the Battalions with respect to the necessaries most immediately wanted, I must beg leave to recommend to your notice the Adjutant of the Battalion Mr. Francis Mintzes as a Gentleman of merit and much useful military knowledge, the Adjutants of the other Battalions (which has been the custom always) enjoy the Rank and pay of Lieutenant annexed to their adjutancy, to enable them to live decently, and to recompense them for the great Trouble they must have in performing the duties of that office with punctuallity and exactness. None in my opinion, deserve it with more justice than Mr. Mintzes, and I dare say you will think with me that there can be no reason why *officers of the same Rank and doing the same duties*, in different Battalions, should receive more pay, or greater indulgences from the Hon'ble the Committee of Safety. The Adjutancy I apprehend not to be a sufficient compensation for the services of Mr. Mintzes, I therefore leave it to the judgment of the Committee whether the Rank & pay of a Lieutenant might not be given to that Gentleman.†

I have the Honour to be

Sir

Yours Most Ob: H'ble Servt

SAM. J. ATLEE.

Directed.

To the Honourable Benjamin Franklin, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of Safety, Philadelphia.

* Ordered to be sent, see Col. Rec. Vol. X., p. 678–4.

† Ibid. 678—he was appointed.

Lewis Nicola to Council of Safety, 1776.

August 3d, 1776.

Sir,

Inclosed is a General Ac't of work lately done at the barracks, with the vouchers, which I beg the favour you'll lay before the Council &, if possible, obtain a speedy order for the payment thereof, as most of the workmen are now in the Camp, & their families want the money for their support, & you'll oblige,

Sr,

Your most obedt

Servt,

LEWIS NICOLA.

P. S. The troops that daily come to the barracks are much displeased at not having necessaries to dress their victuals, Pots I have enough in store, but they will not take unless cleaned, yet constantly return them dirty. There is a great deficiency of Buckets, I therefore request instructions from the Council whether I shall provide them.

Directed,

To the Secretary of the Council of Safety.

Jona. Elmer to Committee of Safety, 1776.

Bridge Town, 4th August, 1776.

Cumberland County.

Sir,

By Lieut. Reed I am favoured with the request from the Council of Safety, for the State of Pennsylvania, for apprehending John Hatton, his son, & one Colo. Kirkland, who they suspect to be in our County. Old Hatton, I'm told, is at his own home in Glou'ster County, & with me it is a matter of doubt whether either of the others are in this County; However, for the satisfaction of your Board & for the good of my Country, you may depend upon my taking, immediately, the most effectual measures for securing them if here; and should they be apprehended, will either convey them immediately to Philadelphia, or (what at present appears to me most prudent, as I'm in doubt about the legality of sending Hatton out of the Province,) will confine them until you are informed of it.

I judged it best for Lieut. Reed to return immediately to Glou'ster

to secure Old Hatton, lest the affair should transpire & he go out of the way.

I am, Sir,

Your very Hble Serv.

JONATH. ELMER.*

Directed.

To Mr. Thomas Wharton, Junr., Chairman of the Committee of Safety, for the State of Pennsylvania.

Robert Smith to Committee of Safety, 1776.

Gentlemen,

I am now ready to raise a Number of frames, But the depth of water oposite to where we have framed them, is not sufficient to bear them off, we must go lower down. The water there is deeper, but we have not room enough on the Beach to raise them, I wo'd therefore propose that a Number of Labourers should be set to work at a gully that has been made in the Bank by the rains that has fallen from time to time, to enlarge this gap, that we may have room to lay the floors at a sufficient distance from the water, till we can erect the upper works in order to add weight that the tide may not Carry them off before we have finish'd the frame.

Mr. Hicks tells me that he cannot employ the Labourers under his care at the fort, before they are discharged. Supose you should order him to set twenty-five or thirty of those People on this service, and put him in a way how they are to be vitual'd; there is Lodging ready near the place for 312 men, there they may sleep. I Beg, Gentlemen, that this may be attended to, otherways I shall be hindered much, and the public business will lag behind.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient

Servant,

ROBT. SMITH.

Bellengsport,

August 5th, 1776.

Directed.

To the Committee of Safety, Present.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. X., p. 667, 670, 694.

Robert Smith to Committee, 1776.

Gentlemen:

I applied to Mr. Samuel Morris for to supply me with a Rigger and Tackle, &c, to assist me in raising the frames, he has order[d] Mr. Ward, the man that has the Command of the Shallop, to execute this part of the business. At the same time you will be pleased to give him orders where he may be supplied with Roaps, Blocks, Anchors, &c., he should also be order[d] to give constant attendance, otherwise there will be much time lost by the People who must wait for his assistance. I pray, Gentlemen, you may put this on a certain footing that I may be enabled to go on.

I am,

Gentlemen, your very humble serv[t],

ROB[t]. SMITH.

Bellengsport, August 5th, 1776.

Directed.

To the Com[tee] of Safety. Present.

Col. Mark Bird to Commonwealth, 1776.

Berks County, 7th Augs[t], 1776.

Sirs:

I believe there was a Resolve of Convention to advance Fifty Shillings a man to the associators that is to march to Jersey after there being Mustered by the Committee; as my Betalion will not be ready for that for two days or three, it will detain us too long after to send for the Cash, take this opportunity to acquaint you of it, there will be about three hundred men in the Betalion. I have provided Prov[s] Tents, Uniform, at my own expense. If you dont think proper to send me Cash without the Committees order, as the expensis is Cheifly paid except the advance, you[l] please to send me five Hundred pounds for Ball. that has been sent, and are ready to send to the Committee of Safety, they were Contracted for by Mr. Owen Biddle, & that will Inable me to take my Betalion to the place appointed at my own expense, it can be hereafter Settled at a more Lasure time, & charge to acc[t].

Your Very Hum[ble] Serv[t],

MARK BIRD.

Directed,

To the Honorable Counsill of Safety of Penn[a].

Col. Atlee to David Rittenhouse, 1776.

Sir:

When last I wrote the Hon'ble the Committee, I addressed them thro' Mr. Franklin, judging him to be the Chairman, I since find I was wrong, but imagine my letter has been laid before them. I therein requested that some articles which the Battalion stood greatly in need of, might be immediately sent.*

I must once more, sir, press the matter, the immediate service of the States require that all the Forces that can be spared from the different parts shou'd join Genr. Washington at New York; the Battalion of Pennr. Musquitteers will march for that purpose this afternoon or to-morrow morning, but in a disgraceful situation with respect to clothing; do pray, sir, have the articles ordered, mentioned in my former letter.

Capn Lloyd, by Genl orders yesterday was appointed Brigade Major to Brigadier Genl Ewing, so that his Company is now Vacant; Mr. Wallis Finney, the Eldest Lieutenant, ought to succeed him in the command, there will then be a Vacant Lieutenancy, and three Vacant Ensigncies. Mr. Ensign Henderson, succeeds, of course, Lieut Finney. Septemus Davis & Geo. Shuffner have been recommended to the Hon'l the Committee for promotion, there will then be one Vacant Ensigncy, for which I wou'd recommend James Whitehead, now a Serjeant in Capt. Nice's Company. If the Hon'ble the Committee shou'd judge proper that the Vacancies be fill'd up in the above order, I should be very glad the Commissions be sent up as soon as possible.

I am sir, with great respect, your
most Obt H'ble Servt,
SAM. J. ATLEE.

Perth Amboy, Augt 11th, 1776.

Directed.

To David Rittenhouse, Esqr., one of the H'ble the Committee of Safety. Philadelphia.

Dr. Bensell to Owen Biddle, 1776.

Sir:

As to those People we spoke of yesterday, all hath be Transacted according to the acct I gave you. Three set off yesterday, and Gilmore last night; there where two horses saddled at the door till after Ten last night afterwards Taken in, when they set off I cannot get Information, it was some Time Between That and morning, all

* See page 6.

I can learn they gave out in the Family, to New York, they have been buisy in writeing as is supposed, the man left with Proudfoot is going down this morning, and Gilmore's Clerk with him as I am Informed, as you can have an acc^t of them by Fitssimmons and Brotherinlaw I would have Enquiry made with all Imaginable Speed, as their actions make them Suspecious, and should be stoped and Examined, they Certainly must have Papers of Consequence with them, Gilmore's Clerk is to go to Virginia Imediately is all I can Learn, what Ever you think Necessary in the case I hope will be done.

I Remain with Respect,
your Humble S^t,
C. BENSEL.

Germantown, August 13th.

Directed.

To Owen Biddle, Esqr., in Philada. These.

Major Thos. Proctor to Committee, 1776.

Fort Island, August 16th, 1776.

Gentlemen:

At a Regimental court Martial appointed to be held this day at Fort Island, to try Sundry Diserters in the Artillary guard, Found, on examining the Articles by which the Artillary Company's are to be govern'd, to forbid Other punishment than disgraceing, Casheiring, drumming out of the Company, Fine not exceeding two Months pay, and imprisonment not exceeding one Month—

Thought proper to Adjourn said Court Martial until I had your sense on said Article, believing you would not Suffer Offenders of so deep a dye to be pass'd with Impunity, and though I love to deal in much tenderness with my Men, I cannot help wishing to deal Punishment for such dareing Insults to the good order of our Army.

Your Instructions respecting the works at Billingsport for the formation of the Battery and the Number of Gunns it is to Contain, Should be proud to receive, as what men can be Spared from hence are ready to enter on the works Immediately. The Recruiting parties go out Tomorrow to Augment the Artillary Company, as by you Directed. I shall do myself the Pleasure of waiting on you for Advice on the Articles which are to regulate my Command, and am,

Respectfully yours, &c.,
THOS. PROCTOR.

Directed,

To the Honourable Council of Safety, Philadelphia.

Com. of Cumberland to Council of Safety, 1776.

In Committee of Inspection and Observation of Cumberland County, at Carlisle, August 17th, 1776.

Gentlemen:

In pursuance of a Resolve of the Committee of Safety, bearing Date at Philadelphia the 15th Day of July last,* impowering the Committees of Inspection and Observation of the several Counties in this Province to draw on that Board for the necessary Sums of Money for the maintainance of the Familys of such Associators as are called into actual Service, and are not of Ability to maintain themselves in the Absence of such Associators; We have drawn an Order directed to y^r Chairman (for We do not know his Name), for two hundred Pounds, payable to Robert Semple, Esquire, which We hope will be sufficient to answer the Demands of such of the good People of this County as are at present in want, unless our Men shall be continued abroad longer than We expect. We hope you will not detain the Bearer. We shall render you a proper Acc^t of the Disposal of the Money, and are,

Gentlemen,

Your most obed^t H^ble Serv^ts.

Signed by Order of the Committee,

GEO. STEVENSON, Chairman.

Directed.

To

The Honourable the Council of Safety of the State of Pennsylvania.

℔ Favour of Robert Semple, Esqr. } at Philad^a.

John Read to Committee, 1776.

Fort Island, 17th Aug^t, 1776.

Sir:

I ought not omitt Informing of you and the Committee, of the bad state of the Banks which incloses Fort Island, being very leakey, & on the west part of the Bank a goodeal wasted away, so that it will, in Order to keep the Island dry, to have the Leaks stop't, and the week parts of the Banks dubled this Fall; as Mr Hicks is done with the ditchors, a few may be had to do this business; should the

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. X., p. 646.

Committee think proper, being on the spot, shall readily undertake that business.

As there are a Quantity of Boards left of the Buildings, to gather with those on the sheeds, it will be necessary to have a Wood Yard properly inclosed, to preserve the Cord wood in the winter season; should you, with the Committee, aprove of these proposals, pleas to let me heere of it, that it may be put into Execution. I am, With great respect, Your most Humble

Servt, JOHN READ.

Directed,

To Owen Beddle, Esqr., of the Committee of Safety, Market Street, Philada.

Wm. Richards to Committee, 1776.

By order of Capt. Richards, Esq.

Gentm.,

I hope you have agreed what sort of Colours I am to have made for the Galleys, &c., as they are much wanted.

You will please to order how you will have the Goods paid for, that are bought for the Provincial Store, I am in want of a Sum of money for that and the Signals.

remain Gentm your most

Obedt & very Humbl Servt,

WM. RICHARDS.

19th August, 1776.

Directed,

To the Council of Safety.

Return of the Clothing, &c., of the three Batalions of the Pennsyla. Troops, received at Camp since Aug. 27th last.

Of whom Received.	Buckskin Breeches.	Blankets.	prs. Stockings.	Shoes.	Yards blue Duffil.	Shirts.	Drilling Breeches.	Drilling Leggings.	Linnen Waistcoats.
General Mifflin,				163	46	200			
Owen Biddle, Esquire,	23	93	196	187		335			59
Colonel Biddle,		33	94	100		28	170	150	
Total received,	23	126	290	450	46	563	170	150	59
Septemr 27th on hand,				180		408	130	109	59

It is not expected that any of the Drilling Breeches or Legings will be used this Season or any of the Linen Waistcoats.

There are only a few of the 408 Shirts on hand, that are fit for the Service perhaps about 50 of them.

Several Virginians to Council of Safety, 1776.

To the Honourable the Council of Safety for the State of Pennsylvania.

Gent^n^,

We have been daily expecting to be called before your Honourable board, and from the delay, are under the necessity of reminding you, that two of us are anxious to return to Virginia & cannot think of returning among our friends, whilst such a matter remains undetermined. We therefore most earnestly beseech you to confront us with our accusers, or to grant a certificate of our innocence, as all of us will greatly suffer in the opinion of our fellow subjects without we can produce a publick proof of our acquittal.

We are with great respect

Your Ob^t^ Serv^ts^,

ROBERT GILMOUR,
THOMAS REID,
PATRICK BALLANTINE.

London Coffee house, 28th Aug^t^, 1776.

Directed.

To the Honble the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania.

Richard Peters to Council of Safety, 1776.

Gentlemen:

There are so many Divisions & Disputes between the Privates of Capt Martin's Company & the Officers, & they have so often refused to do Duty unless this or the other Point was carried by the contending Parties, that I am wearied out with endeavoring to compromise their Differences. I think they had better be dismissed, & paid as far as they have done Duty & sent Home to their Employments, which I fancy is at the Bottom of all their Contentions. A Captain Ming, of Col. Matlack's Battallion, offers to do Duty as

City Guards, with Sixty Men, which he says he has or can raise. If this be so, he would well supply Capt Martin's Place, whose Company is reduced very low.

I wrote to your Honble Board to give me my Dissmission, and hope they will be pleased to attend to my Request, as it is not only attended with much Trouble (which I should not find Fault with were it the only Inconvenience) but often prevents my doing public Duty in another Line.

I have the Honor to be
Your very obedt Servt,
Augt 30th, 1776. RICHARD PETERS.

Directed.
Honble the Council of Safety of Pennsilvania.

DEPOSITION FRANCIS MILLS TO COUNCIL, 1776.

In Council of Safety,
Philada, 30th Augt, 1776.

I do swear on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that I will not take up arms against the United States of America, nor hold any correspondence with, or give any intelligence to the Enemies of the said States, and that I will not contrive any plots or treasonable practices against the said States, but will inform the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania of all such practices as may come to my knowledge, as witness my hand, this, 30th Augt, 1776.

FRANCIS MILLS.

Sworn before the Council of Safety,
August 30th, 1776.
SAML. MORRIS,
Chairman.

Muster Roll of the Accommodation Sloop Hetty, Henry Hoover Mas'r, from Aug. 1 to Sep. 1, 1776.

No.	Mens Names.	Station.	Time pay commenc'd.	Monthly pay.	Absent, dead, or Discharg'd.	for what reason discharg'd	Sick & when sent to Hospital.	Return'd from Sick Quarters.	Time in pay M. D.		Sum. £ s d
1	Henry Hoover,	Mas^r	Aug^st 1,	£5 0 0							
2	Daniel Morris,	Steward,	d^o.	8 15 0							
3	John Thornton,	Clerk to all the Fire Fleet.	d^o.	6 0 0						£	

I do certify on honour, That the Officers, Non Commission'd Officers and Privates, belonging to the Accommodation Sloop Hetty under my Command, are bona fide engaged in the Naval Service of the Province of Pennsylvania, & receive pay according to the time mentioned, & the rank they hold in this Roll. HENRY HOOVER.

This Muster, taken from Aug. 1st to Sepr 1st, 1776, on board the Accommodation Sloop Hetty, commanded by Henry Hoover, of the Naval force in the Service of the Province of Pennsylvania. One Master, One Steward, & One Clerk. LOD'K SPROGELL, M. M.

Memorial Jno. Bayard & R. Peters to Council of Safety, 1776.

To The Honble the Council of Safety:

Col. Bayard & Capt Peters, at the request of one of their Members, beg Leave to represent

That, notwithstanding great Pains have been taken with the Detachment of Assotiators left by Genl. Roberdeau for the Safe guard & Protection of the City of Philadelphia, great Confusion & Want of Discipline still prevail among them. The causes of this may be traced from many Sources; but a principal one is that of their being but a temporary Body of Men, who imagine that if they can but get thro' the Business at any Rate until their Time shall be expired, the public will or ought to be satisfied. Many of them refuse to take Pay, & therefore do not consider themselves under Continental Regulations, but do what they choose to call their Duty according to their own Opinions or Passions, & are under little or no Command of their Officers. Others make this Duty a Kind of Sinecure, & if they appear at the Time their Turn of mounting Guard arrives, they think they comply with their Engagements, & follow their Business all the rest of the Time, whereby the Commanding Officer is frequently distress'd when on a sudden any Body of Men is to be raised for a particular Emergency, & is also prevented by their Non Attendance from disciplining the Men as Military Service requires. It is therefore proposed for the Consideration of your honorable Board that a Body of three hundred Assotiators be raised for the express purpose of guarding the City, & that they be properly officered out of the Officers now in the Militia, & they do no other Duty but as City Guards, unless in Case of Invasion in or near Philadelphia. It is presumed that this Body might easily be raised, as there are many Men now out of Business who would enter into this Kind of Service, & as they would be at their Home, the Officers would indulge them with working at their Business when off military Duty, the Performance of which at present is looked upon by many of them rather as a Favour than a Matter of Obligation. Should the Honble Council not approve of this Measure, which is conceived to be the most eligible, the Subscribers do themselves the Honór of laying before you another Plan on the present Footing of the City Guards, but acknowledge themselves much at a Loss how to render it permanently or satisfactorily useful, viz:

That at the Expiration of the present Month for which the four Companies now on Duty will remain, to wit, on the 15th instant, either the Battallions of the City & Liberties should take it in Rotation, each Battallion furnishing the whole Guard for a Month or six Weeks, or that each Battallion should furnish one Company for

that Time, to compose the Guards of the City. At all Events, an Officer under the Character of an Adjutant should be appointed, whose Duty it should be to attend to the said Guards, & reduce them into Order & Discipline. Should such an Officer be thought necessary, we beg Leave to recomend Thomas Hanson, Adjutant to the 2d Battallion, for that Purpose, who on the late Expedition to Amboy, has behaved to general Satisfaction as an excellent Disciplinarian. But as some of the Battallions are strong and others weak, it would be impossible to distribute the Duty equally in that Way, & a Corps formed of Companies from different Battallions have not that Confidence in, or will they pay the Obedience to, the Officers, which are absolutely necessary. Beside, the Guards will be fluctuating, & never can be, in the humble Opinion of the Subscribers, put upon a steady & respectable Footing.

Philadª, Septr 2d, 1776. JNO. BAYARD,
RICHARD PETERS.

Parole of Honour, 1776.

State of Pennsylvania, ss:

We do hereby promise & engage upon our Honour as Gentlemen, that we will not offer any abuse to each other, nor provoke one another by any means whatsoever, nor give nor receive any challenge to each other, or fight with each other with any deadly or desperate weapon whatsoever, as witness our hands, this, 2d day of September, 1776.

B. M. DeLAMARQUISIE. HUGOUNERE.

Joseph Hart to Council of Safety, 1776.

Amboy, September ye 2nd, 1776.

Gentlemen:

This Minute I received Information from Robt Patterson, Esqr, one of the Committee for the County of Bucks, that there was two or Three Companies of the Third Bat. in sd County, Commanded by Collonel Kickline, who do not Intend to March forward in defence of their Country; and the matter being made known to General Dickenson, he advised me Immediately to Communicate it to

You, that you may take such Measures as you think most for the Publick good. I am, Gentlemen,

Your most Obedient Hmble Servt,

JOSEPH HART.

Directed.

For the Council of Safety for the State of Pensilvania.

Proceedings of Committee of Berks Co., 1776.

In Committee, Reading, September 8d, 1776.

Upon the Petition of divers Inhabitants of this Town, praying that the Prisoners of War now here may be disarmed, and compelled to repair to their respective Lodgings at a Seasonable Hour in the Evening, &c., Resolved, that Capt John Witman, Thomas Warren, and Michael Graus, be appointed to take the Fire Arms and other offensive Weapons (Side Arms excepted), and Ammunition of the Prisoners of War in this Town, and give Receipts for them to be returned, agreeable to the Capitulation, And that they have Notice to retire to their respective Lodgings at 8 o'Clock every Evening, after which Hour it is expected none of the Inhabitants will have any Intercourse with them.

In Committee, Reading, September 4th, 1776.

Daniel Rose, Philip Kremer, and Krauff Hüner, are appointed to assist in disarming the Prisoners of War, agreeable to the Order of Yesterday.

In Committee, Reading, September 5th, 1776.

Capt John Witman, Michael Graus, and Daniel Rose, three of the Persons appointed to collect the Fire Arms of the Prisoners of War now in this Town, informing the Committee that General Prescot had refused to deliver up his Pistols 'till he had first broken and rendered them useless, and that he had declared they acted like Robbers in offering to take them from him,—The General was sent for, and confessed the Charge against him, alledging that he thought himself intitled to said Arms by the Capitulation as a part of his private Property, which he might destroy if he thought proper, and producing a Copy of his Capitulation, which referred to that of the Garrison of St. John's, by the 2d Article whereof it appears that the Fire Arms of the Officers were to be put up in a Box and delivered to them when the Disputes between us and Great Britain should be ended. The Committee, upon due Consideration of the Conduct of the General, do resolve, that he has behaved very much amiss in breaking and destroying his Pistols, and abusing the Officers of this Committee, And that he be committed to the Common Goal 'till the Opinion of the Council of Safety be known.

A true Copy from the Minutes.

COLLINSON READ, Secretary.

JAMES READ TO COUNCIL, 1776.

Reading, September 5th, 1776.

Gentlemen,

Inclosed is a Copy of a Resolve of the Committee of this Town for disarming the Prisoners of War stationed here, and an Order for Confining General Prescot, one of the Prisoners, for Contempt of the Orders of the Committee, and abusing the Persons appointed to execute them, of which I am directed to make Report to you.*

I have it also in Charge to acquaint you that the Inhabitants of the Town have petitioned the Committee for a Guard to be kept as a Security from any Attempts which may be made by the Prisoners in our present defenceless Situation, and that such is the Uneasiness of the People that we cannot help thinking their Request should be immediately attended to; but as the Committee have it not in their Power to appoint such Guard, unless some Provision can be made for the Payment & Regulation of it, I am directed to request You in the most earnest manner, to make such Provision during the Stay of the Prisoners here, unless you should think proper to Remove them, which you may be assured would give general Satisfaction to the Inhabitants, who are very much alarmed at their Conduct.

By Order of the Committee.

I am, with great Respect,

Gentlemen,

Your very humble

Servt,

JAMES READ, Chairman

P. S.—Money is much wanted for the Poor of this Town, wch may be sent us by the Bearer.

Directed,

To the Honble The Council of Safety of the Province of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia.

☞ Favour of Mr Isaac Levan.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. X., p. 714.

Daniel Brodhead to ——, 1776.

Camp near Kingsbridge, 5th Sep'r, 1776.

Dear Sir,

I doubt not the Hon'ble the Convention of the State of Penn'a, is anxious to know the state of the Provincial Troops since the Battle on Long Island, and as I have now all the information to be expected concerning it for the present, will give them every circumstance that occurs to me. On the 26th of last month, Gen'ls Putnam, Sullivan and others came to our camp which was to the left of all the other posts and proceeded to reconnoitre the enemie's lines to the right, when from the movements of the enemy they might plainly discover they were advancing towards Jamaica, and extending their lines to the left so as to march round us, for our lines to the left, were, for want of Videttes, left open for at least four miles when we constantly scouted by Day, which beside mounting a Guard of one hundred men & an advance party of subaltern and thirty to the left of us, was hard Duty for our Reg't: during the night of the 26th, we were alarmed three Different times and stood to our Arms. As soon as it was light, Col. Miles, from the right of our first Batt^n, sent me orders to follow him with the second, to the left of our lines; when I had marched about half a mile, I was ordered to the right about to join Col. Willis's reg^t of New England troops, but by the time I returned to the camp, Major Williams on horseback, overtook me with orders from Col. Miles, to march Obliquely & join him, but could not say where I might find him; I Observed the orders and directed a Subaltern from the front of the Batt^n (which was marching in Indian file) with a small party to the left of the Batt^n, and desired Major Patton to send a Subaltern & small party from the rear to the right of the front of the Battallion, which he mistook and took the one-half of the Batt^n to the right, about two hundred yards, which immediately threw the half the Batt^n so far to the rear as to render it very difficult to join without sustaining great loss, for presently after we left our camp we discovered the Enemie's horse & foot to the number of four or five Thousand in our front, and as we could discover nothing of the first Batt^n, the Enemy being vastly superior to us in Number, I immediately ordered the Batt^n to gain a Wood to the left and then formed, but seeing a Number of Artillerymen dragging a brass field-piece & Howit through a clear field in order to gain a wood a little to the left of our Front, and knowing the Enemy were also in our rear, I ordered that part of the Batt^n which was then with me, to proceed to the second wood, & cover the Artillery and make a stand, but the New England Reg^t aforementioned coming up with us, and running thro' our files broke them, and in the confusion many of our men run with them. I did all in my power to rally the musquetry &

Riflemen, but to no purpose, so that when we came to engage the Enemy, I had not fifty men, notwithstanding which, we after about three Rounds, caused the Enemy to retire, and as the Enemy's main body was then nearly between us and the lines, I retreated to the lines, having lost out of the whole Battallion, about one hundred men, officers included, which, as they were much scattered, must be chiefly prisoners; during this time, four or five Reg'ts, among which were our musquetry & flying Camp, Delaware & Maryland Reg'ts, and some of our Riflemen who had joined them, were engaged to the left of us and right of the Lines. I had no sooner got into the Lines than the Enemy advanced up to them and kept up a brisk fire on us, but only one man killed in the Lines; as soon as we returned the fire with our rifles and musquetry, they retreated, and if we had been provided with a field piece or two, of which we had a sufficient number elsewhere, we might have killed the greater part of their advance party; as soon as the Enemy were beaten from the lines, I was ordered to a point about a mile and a-half to the right, to cover the retreat of the Delaware Battallion and the other Troops that might come over under the Constant fire of the Enemie's field pieces and Howits; here I remained 'till almost night before I was relieved, notwithstanding the Generals there had a number of Reg'ts who were not engaged, and had had little or no fatigue. Upon the whole, less Generalship never was shown in any Army since the Art of War was understood, except in the retreat from Long Island, which was well conducted. No troops could behave better than the Southern, for though they seldom engaged less than five to one, they frequently repulsed the Enemy with great Slaughter, and I am confident that the number killed and wounded on their side, is greater than on ours, notwithstanding we had to fight them front & rear under every disadvantage. I understand that Gen. Sullivan has taken the Liberty to charge our brave and good Col. Miles, with the ill success of the Day, but give me leave to say, that if Gen. Sullivan & the rest of the Gen'ls on Long Island, had been as Vigilant & prudent as him, we might, & in all probability would have cut off Clinton's Brigade; our officers & men in general, considering the confusion, behaved as well as men could do—a very few behaved ill, of which, when I am informed, will write you. Our men are getting very sickly for want of Blankets and Cloathing,* (having thrown away those they had in the engagement,) which I fear they can't be furnisht with here. Gen'l Washington has ordered our three broken Battallions to be considered as a regiment under my command untill further Orders, but as the Assembly and Committee of Safety by them appointed are now dissolved, I should be glad to know from your Hon'ble House, whether we are considered as Volunteers in this part of the Continent, or as the Troops of the State of Pens'a, subject to the order of Convention, and whether our

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. X., p. 722.

Rank is to be settled upon a more respectable footing than at present, for as it now stands, a Lieut. Col. commissioned by Congress as of yesterday, takes rank of me to-day. I should also be glad to know whether promotions will take place and the Reg'ts filled by Drafts or recruits, also in respect of the exchange of Prisoners, for we apprehend that Continental Troops will always be exchanged before us. Col. Miles & Col. Piper are prisoners, and I hear are well treated, poor Atly I can hear nothing of. Col. Parry died like a Hero. No allowance has as yet been made for the Lieutenant Coll's and Majors Table Expenses, in care of separate commands. I hope we shall be put upon as respectable a footing on that acc't as the Maryland officers are, our present pay being not more than half sufficient to support us according to our Rank in this Tory Country.

I am Dear Sir, in great Haste, your

most H'ble Serv't,

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

P. S. The Great Gen'l Putnam could not, tho' requested, send out one Reg't to cover our retreat.

JOHN READ TO COUNCIL, 1776.

Fort Island, 7th Septem'r, 1776.

Sir,

Pleas to lay the following peices of business before the Hon'ble the Council of Safety for the State of Pensilvania.

Viz:

The Banks of this Island on the west side in several places, is wash'd near half thro' which should be dubbed; there are a great number of Leaks many very large and dangerous, which on every high tide is liable to Increas. Should the Council give directions for the business to be done, I beleive I could get Ditchers for 3—6 ℔r day and Barrow men at something under that price, allowing the usal quantety of Rum with provesions.

As Messrs Robinson & Worrell are to be here to doe some Carpenters work for Doctor Dunlap, I should be glad they were order'd to Inclose a Yard in the Barracks for the securety of Cord wood to be laid in for this Station, it would also be proper for me to know on whome I am to give Orders, for the wood to be purchased as Mr. Nexson is absent from Philadelphia.

I have the Honour to be with

great Esteam your Most Obedeant,

Humble Serv't,

JOHN REED, Com'g.

Directed.

To Thomas Wharton, Jun'r, Esq'r., President,

To the Hon'ble the Counsel of Safety for the state of Pennsilvanea, Philadelphia.

JAMES BLAIR TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1776.

Fort Island, Sept'r 12th, 1776.

Gentlemen,

I this morning received your Resolve of 31st ult., ordering Four men belonging to the Gallies to be sent to work at Mr. James Wharton's Rope Walk for four weeke, agreeable to which I now send Purviance & Canaday belonging to the Franklin. Farley belonging to the Ranger went up this morning in their Yaut & the other man Reily is on board Capt. Greenaway.

I am,

Gent.,

Your very humble Serv't,

JAMES BLAIR.

Directed,

To the Hon'ble the Councill of Safety,
for the State of Pennsylvania.

JOHN READ TO COUNCIL, 1776.

Fort Island, 15th Septem'r, 1776.

Sir,

Several persons have spoke to me about Wood, Who can supply us with 200 cords, its being so very high at present should be glad to have the directions of the Council. We were out of Wood yesterday, and was obleged to bring a Flat loaded with wood to the wharff. I should be much obliged to Mr. Biddle to let me know on who I am to give orders for the pay there of, and for what is to be laid in for the winter. It will be necessary to have a yard to keep the wood, at a spot convenient for the Boats & Barracks, &c. It will likewise be necessary to have a cart & horses to hall the wood from the wharff to the wood yard. I should like to have two or three Labourers to receive and cord up the wood for the winter, rather

than to apply to the officers for a party; roll calling and other duty prevent them from work, that it's rarely they make ½ & sometimes not more than ¼ of the Day; that employing of Labourers would be cheaper in the end and more properly don, as it is I should like to retain William Smith, who understands cording of wood, besides he is a good Ditcher, understands the charge of the sluices and keeping them properly in order; mowing of the Banks which is over run with weeds, the vast Quantetys of cattle & sheep that has been kept on the Island this summer, has distroyed the grass, but left the weeds which has and well fowle the meadow and Banks greatly. Smith, I have employed to cut the weeds down on the Banks, as leaveing them to grow & drop there seeds will ruin the banks next season, and hurt the meadow greatly. If the meadows is to be given up to the Butchers or victualer, another year, they ought to be obleged to mow down What the cattle leaves, and this is what I want, among other things Smith to do, as the place will be much benefit'd thereby; had I the Island from the 2d ditch on a reasonable rent, not be incommoded by the people stationed here, I would take care to have it in good order again, but if neglected as it has been, will soone cost more than duble the work repaering, than if kept in order, as ocation requires every year.

I am, Sir,

Your Most Obedient Humble Servant,

JOHN READ.

Directed,

To Owen Biddle, Esq'r,

Member of the Council of Safety for the State of Pennsylvania, Markit Street, Philadelphia.

Copy of Resolve of Congress, 1776.

Septem'r 16th, 1776.

In Congress.

That the appointments of all officers and filling up vacancies, (except Gen[l] Officers,) be left to the Governments of the several States, And that every State provide Arms, Cloathing, and every Necessary for its Quota of Troops according to the foregoing Estimate.

Extract from the Minutes.

Copy.

JOHN READ TO COUNCIL, 1776.

Fort Island, 18th September, 1776.

Sir,

The late alteration from a Committe of Safety to a Council* of Safety, of which Mr. Morris tells me you are appointed for the business of this Island, I hope will plead in excuse for my troubling you with the following particulars; my General instructions are to deliver stores committed to my care by an Order from the commanding officer. Querie, are those Orders to be written or verbal, Officers are very apt to send verbal orders for what they want, should I refuse to comply, they may be displeased. As a Barrack master may I not exercise my own Judgment in matters relative to my duty and in all issuings insist on Written orders, taking receipt to whom delivered, &c.

Last night Capt. Simmons sent for the Key of the cellar under the Committee House to confine a Prisoner in. I sent it, tho' against my own Judgment, (but took the messenger's receipt.) Should that cellar be turned into a black-Hole or made a prison of, it will soon become obnoxious and diffuse a disagreeable smell through the whole apartments. Should be glad to know on whome I am to give my orders in futer for wood delivered for the use of this station.

A wood yard is much wanting, will the Committee for this Island be pleas'd to give orders to the carpenter that's coming to work, to build me one on a spot conteagus both to vessels and Barracks.

This Island is very leaky; many musrat holes being in the Banks ocations it. The Banks wants mowing, the vast numbers of cattle & sheep the Butchers had on the meadow destroyed the Grass and left the weeds standing. Shall I have the weed cut down? The Barrack Doors should be Number'd and the water-casks should be Number'd to each Barrack, that should the troops or others inhabiting the Barrack Rooms suffer them to fall to pieces, that roome or soldiers in it, should be put under stopages to repair s^d casks.

The Gutters of the Committee house should have been painted and the cracks stopt with Puttee, and Painted two or three times after its being stop't with Puttey, &c., if that is not done before the winter sets in, the House may be greatly damaged by rain, &c.

This will be handed to you by Mr. Claypole, who would be very ready to serve you in Painting the Gutters and Numbering the Doors, and in particular in mending a Number of Windows as many Pains are broken.

I am with great Esteem, your most
Humble Servant,
JOHN READ.*

Directed.
To David Rittenhouse, Esq'r, Philadelphia.
P^r favour of Mr. James Claypoole.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. X., p. 658.

Council of Safety to Benj. Flower, 1776.

In Council of Safety.

Philada., Septem'r 18th, 1776.

Sir,

I have it in charge from this board to acquaint you that complaints have been made to us that the Ammunition sent to the Flying Camp has been greatly squandered and wasted through the negligence of some of the Officers, who have the care of it. As our supply of ammunition is very precarious, & the success of our present struggles must greatly depend on a carefull use of it, we therefore think it our indispensable duty to give you this caution, in order that proper care may be taken therein.

By Order of Council.

Directed.

Lt Benj. Flowers, Commissary of Stores at Flying Camp.

Patrick Anderson to Council, 1776.

Camp above Kingsbridge, Sept. 22nd, 1776.

Honoured Sir,

My Zeal for the Great Cause & the Difficulties I have Lately Encountered, together with our present shattered condition & my want of Instructions from the Honourable the Convention or Council, over which you preside, Relative to my future conduct, Oblidges me to trouble your Honour with the following accounts and Requests, and therefore shall submit the following particulars to your Consideration.

Immediately after our Defeat on Long Island the command of the musquetry Battallion Devolved on me. I found the number of men remaining fit for Duty to be about 200, but the most of their Baggage & some Even of their arms and accoutrements Lost, & having no field officers Left, applyed to Lt. Col. Broadhead for his advice & assistance; soon after he informed me the General ordered him to annex our Battallion to the Riffle Regt, which I at that time Complyed with in Expectation of further Instructions from the Convention or Council of Safety, as Coll. Broadhead wrote you concerning it, Want of Necessarys Sowered the men's minds. Deficiencys in their Stipulated Rations hath Increased it, & Neglect of punctual payt of their pay, hath Caused their meeting & Desert in Great numbers, with arms, &c., So that there is now only scarce Eighty-three Remaining, & they still think if they are taken prisoners they will

not be Exchanged while any prisoners from the Continental army is in the Enemy's hands.

2. The foregoing will necessaryly shew our present condition.

3. Your Honour will hereby perceive that the utmost Exertions are necessary to bring the men to their Duty, Therefore I, with Col. Broadhead's permission have sent Lieut. Lang, after the Deserters, he being a Gentleman in whom I can fully confide, both for his abilitys & faithfulness, & who, from his knowledge of military Duties & of the state of our troops, & having been continually active in all our movements, can fuly Inform your Honour of Every particular you may think proper to Enquire after. Also, Captn Dehuff will further inform on his arrival.

I would therefore wish to know what farther orders you may think proper to Issue & shall chearfully Obey, & if you see cause to recruit the Battallion, Shall Recommend several for promotion of whose Good behaviour & courage I have undoubted proofs, Both in Long Island & Elsewhere.

I am Hon^rd Sir, your most obed't serv't,

PATRICK ANDERSON, Capt,
P. B. M.

Directed.

To the Honourable Benjamin Franklin,
President of the Convention of the State of Pennsylvania,
at Philadelphia.

ROBERT MORRIS TO COUNCIL OF S., 1776.

Philad'a, Sept. 24th, 1776.

Gent^n,

The ship Betsey, Cap. Stevens, being in the Service of the Continent, We request you will grant permission for a good Pilot to carry her down the Bay & due care will be taken that he does not fall into the hands of the Enemy.

By order of the Secret Committee.

I have the honor to be Gent^n,
Your obed^t h'ble Serv't,
ROBT. MORRIS.

Directed,

To the Honorable,
The Council of Safety.

Lewis Nicola to Council, 1776.

September 24th, 1776.

Sr,

I beg the favour you will acquaint the Council that I have done my best endeavours to procure straw for the marines, but cannot get any, sooner than the end of this week as the country people have been & are still so employed in seeding their lands, they have not had time to thrash, neither will it be in my power to get the bed cases made, & other necessaries provided before that time. Major Nichols apprehensive the council may blame him has desired me to give them this information.

I am, Sir,

Your most obed

Servt,

LEWIS NICOLA.

Directed,

To the Secretary to the Council of Safety.

Daniel Brodhead to Convention, 1776.

Camp near Head Quarters, Sep'r 28th, 1776.

Sir,

I am sorry I have not been happy enough to have the receipt of my Letter to you acknowledged by an answer. By the Gen'l orders an officer is to be sent from each Regt to provide Cloathing suitable for the Winter, & as we have recd none for the three Batt'ns, especially Coats & Jackets I have desired Major Williams to go to Philadelphia, and if Possible see those necessary articles forwarded, and he will wait upon you with this. It seems there are to be no more Provincial Troops, so that we shall probably be disbanded. I should be glad to know your Sentiments about it, for if this should be the case, those of the Provincial Officers who choose to go into the Continental Service, may have an opportunity to apply to Congress in time.

I am, Sir, with great Regard &

Esteem, your most obed't,

H'ble Serv't,

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

Directed,

George Ross, Esquire,

Vice President of the Convention for Pensilvania.

Petition of Cumberland Co., N. J., to the Committee for the City and Liberties of Philadelphia, 1776.

To the honorable the Committee for the City & Liberties of Philadelphia.

The Committee for the County of Cumberland, in the Province of New Jersey, beg leave to represent,

That the good people of this County, forseeing the Consequences of the present System of Administration with respect to the Colonies, have early stood forth in the cause of Liberty, and exerted themselves in learning the Military Art, and furnishing themselves with Arms for the defence of their Country; but unhappily for them, thro' the great scarcity of Powder, they have not yet been able to furnish themselves with that necessary article, without which, all their Military preparations will be of no avail, and their arms must remain with them an useless incumbrance, nay, must even expose them to greater insults from the hand of Tyranny. Impressed with a sense of these things, and considering how much we lie exposed to the depredations of ministerial robbers, and finding there is not a sufficient quantity of Ammunition among us to defend ourselves, (should they make an incursion upon us,) until such time as we could be supplied from your City, we therefore earnestly request you, (if in your power) to furnish us, (if not with a full supply,) with at least a small quantity to ease the minds of the people, and enable us to defend ourselves and our property, in case of any emergency; you may safely rely on our taking every necessary precaution to prevent its being destroyed, wasted, or used for any other purpose than the support of the common cause.

Signed by order of the Committee,

THOMAS HARRIS, *Chairman.*

Sept'r 30th, 1775.

Directed,

To the hon'ble Committee of Philadelphia.

Pay of the Armed Boats per Month, 1776.

Pay of the Armed Boats ℔ month, to Commence from Oct'r 1, 1776.

Captain,	32	Dollars	Carpenter,	15	Dollars
1st Lieutenant,	20	do.	Steward,	12	do.
2d Lieutenant,	16	do.	Cook,	9	do.
Captain's Clerk,	12	do.	Drum & fife,	8	do.
Boatswain,	15	do.	Privates,	8	do.
Gunner,	15	do.	Boys,	4	do.

Batterys,		Commodore,	60
Master,	16	Doctor	26¾
Master's Mate,	12	Mate,	15
Gunner's Mate,	9	Pilot,	
Carpenter's Mate,	9	Midshipman,	12
Boatswain's Mate,	9	Armorer,	9
Qu^r Master,	8	Master of Alarms,	10
Carpenter's Yeoman,		Boatswain's Yeoman.	
Q^r Gunner,	8		

Rich'd Boger to R. Morris, 1776.

York Town Jail, Octob'r 2d, 1776.

Sir,

In Conformity to the Resolution of Congress for the allowance for Officers who are Prisoners, I directed Mr. Graybel, the Goaler of York Town, after paying him the over plus of his Bill for Mr. Ball and myself to call upon the Committee of this place, who return'd for answer that they had no directions in the case. I shall therefore be oblig'd to you to regulate this matter with the Committee of York Town in such a way that payment may be made to the Landlords here, as it will be inconvenient for them to wait on the Congress. As I never before found any Difficulty in getting this matter settled, the Committee at Germantown readyly paying it, I have now to apologize to you for the trouble offered to you, which this new Circumstance has occasioned.

I am, Sir,
With due respect,
Your most obedient,
and most Humble servant,
RICH'D BOGER.

Directed.
Robert Morris, Esqr, in Congress.

Lt. Col. Wm. Baxter to Council, 1776.

Bucks County, Neshamoney, October 2th, 1776.

Gentelmen,

Noe Doubt you have heard of an Election ben held yesterday by the torey partey at Nuetown in this County, the Bearer, Captn

Sempell, I have sent to inform you of what he knows concerning the affear, as he was at the Election.

From y^s most Obed^t Hu'ble
Servt,
WILLIAM BAXTER, L^t. Col^o.

To the Councel of Saftey, in Philadelphia.

---

for Bucks.

Inspectors { Will Minkman, John Story, James Shaw, Thos. Smith.

Clerks { Will. Linton, Tho. Ross, Wm. Atkinson.

Sam. Biles, Sheriff.

Wm. Biles dispersed Tickets.
Hicks proposed the plan.

John Brown, Wm. Rodman,
Benj. Chapman.

John Windar, Clerk of the Court made proclamation.

Directed.
To the Counsel of Safety for the State of Pensilvania.

Council to Henry Wynkoop, 1776.

In Council of Safety, Philad^a, 3d Oct. 1776.

Sir,

We are Informed that some evil minded persons, disaffected to the present Government, have attempted to prevent its Establishment, by supporting the late Government under the Authority of the King of Great Britain, for wch purpose they have proceeded to an Election of Representatives under the said authority, in Contempt and defiance of the authority of the good people of this State. As such a Measure, if carried into Execution, cannot fail to defeat this virtuous Opposition to the Tyranny of the King of Great Britain, it behoves us to take Effectual Measures to punish such contumacious Offenders against this State. You are therefore desired to make enquiry concerning the Said Election, & of the persons who

are principally concern'd therein, & communicate the same to this Board as soon as you conveniently can.

By order of the Council.

Directed.

(Copy.)

To Henry Wynkoop, Esqr.

Major Thomas Proctor to Council, 1776.

Philadelphia, Oct. 3d, 1776.

Gentlemen,

As the second Comp'y of Artillery which I was directed to raise for this province is nearly Compleat'd, Conceive the Necessity of your appointing such Gentlemen as you may think most worthy to fill the station of Officers in s^d Comp'y, In order they may the sooner become acquainted with their Duty and their men. And as it will always reflect Honour on the Core, and greatly emulate the soldiery to Excell by Chuseing such Men, for promotion, who have supported a becoming Character in the Army; Beg leave to offer the following Gentlemen for your acceptance, being well acquainted with their General conduct believe they have personal Courage, viz., Mr. William Fergusson, Mr. Pat'k Duffy, Mr. Chas. Turnbull, Mr. Robt. McConnell. They can be suitably recommended by reputable Cityzans if required. The promotion of Lieutenants Strobuck, Courtnay & Proctor, beg your Honours to take into Consideration, and if the Number of Artillerymen are appointed to be Detach'd to General Washington, shou'd be proud to receive my Orders on the Occasion.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Honours'

Most H'ble Servant,

THOS. PROCTOR.*

Directed.

To the Honourable Council of Safety, Philadelphia.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. X., p. 742. Several of them were appointed.

Council to Brig. Gen. McKinley, 1776.

In Council of Safety, Octr 5th, 1775.

Gen. Jno. McKinley, Wilmington:

Sir,

The Troops belonging to this State in the Continental Service being in great Want of Warm Cloathing, the Council, after taking the necessary Steps to procure from the Different Counties in this State all the Coarse Cloths, Blankets & Stockings that can be had, were Informed that a quantity may be obtained with you, the Council knowing your attachment to the American cause took the liberty earnestly to request you would undertake this Business for them by appointing proper persons in the different parts of your State to purchase Coarse Cloths, Blankets, Worsted or Yarn Stockings & Coarse Linen. Should there be a prospect of Success, the Council will Immediately furnish you with a proper Sum of money for the purpose, or pay all such Drafts as you may make upon them.

Directed,

To Brigadier Genl McKinley, Wilmington, Oct. 5th, 1776.*

Major Ennion Williams to Council, 1776.

Philad^a, Saturday Morning, October 5th, 1776.

Sir,

Colonel Broadhead's Letter, wrote some time since, inclosing the Returns of the three Batalions, &c., I observe by the Minutes of the Convention has been laid before them, which Letter has not yet been answered, which the Colonel at present is at a Loss to know the reason of. The Colonel also wrote a Letter by me to Colonel George Ross, Esquire, Vice President of the Convention. The Care and Direction of these three Batalions being referr'd to the Council of Safety, it no doubt will be Necessary that all these Papers should be laid before you Immediately for your Consideration. I have been confined to my Bed these 2 days, or I should have waited on you myself.

I am your humble Servant,

ENNION WILLIAMS.

Directed,

Thomas Wharton, Esquire,
Pres'ent of the Council of Safety.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. X., p. 743.

Major Ennion Williams to Council, 1776.

Monday Morning, Oct 7th, 1776.

Sir,

I here inclose a Return of the Clothing, &c., of the three Penns Batalions, for the inspection of your H'ble Board now sitting.

A List of the Caps Coats, &c., lately sent, has not yet come to my Hand, they are therefore, not included in this Return.

In your List of Articles sent forward last August or beginning of September, you no Doubt will have a large Quantity of Blankets not accounted for in this Return; the Reason of which is, that a large Parcel, (I believe 2 Bales,) of Blankets were forwarded from Amboy, by Col. Biddle to Fort Constitution; and Col. Brodhead was informed, that there, through Mistake of the assist' Dy Qr. M. G. they were open'd and distributed to the Flying Camp, so that our suffering Troops did not receive any of that Parcel.

I am with great Esteem,

Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

ENNION WILLIAMS.

P. S. Colonel Brodhead would be glad to know, whether the Cloths remaining, belonging to those soldiers missing on Long Island, are to be apprais'd and delivered to the Troops at Camp, or what other Measure the Council of Safety chuse to order.

En. W.

Directed,

Thomas Wharton, Esquire,
President of the H'ble The Council of Safety, Press'.

An Account of Cannon Cast at Reading and Warwick Furnaces, 1776.

An account of Cannon cast at Warwick Furnace for the State of Pennsylvania.

Pounders.	Weight of Each 12 Pounder. T.	C.	qr.	℔.	Weight of Each 18 Pounder. T.	C.	qr.	℔.
12	1	8	3	14				
18					1	15		
12	1	8	3	14				
18					1	15	3	
12	1	8	2					
18					1	15	3	
18					2			
12	1	9						
12	1	9						
18					1	19	2	14
18					2		2	7
18					2			
18					2	1	3	
18					2			
12	1	9	2					
18					2			14
18					2		2	
12	1	9	1					
12	1	9	2					
12	1	9	1	7				
18					2		2	
12	1	9						
18					2		1	
18					2		1	14
℔ No.								
12 10								
	14	10	3	7	27	10		21
18 14								
	27	10		21				
	42	1	Wt. Total.					
12 13	Not weighed.							
18 23	Do.							

Total, ℔ 12 23 / 48 37 — 60 cannon.

An account of Cannon cast at Reading Furnace for the State of Pensylvania.

Pounders.	Weight of Each 12 Pounder.				Weight of Each 18 Pounder.			
12	1	10	14					
12	1	10	14					
18					1	14	2	14
18					2	3		14
18					1	13	3	
18					1	13	1	14
18					1	13	3	14
18					2	9	3	14
℔ No.								
12 2	3		1		11	8	2	14
18 6	11	8	2	14				
	14	8	3	14	Wt Total.			
℔ No.								
12 6	Not weighed,							
18 18	Do.							

Total, ℔ 12 8 / 18 24 — 32 cannon.

The Total cast at Warwick & Reading Furnaces.

Pounders.	Number.
12	31
18	61
	92 cannon.

Robert Smith to Council, 1776.

Gentlemen:

As I have occasion for a further supply of money, it may not be improper to inform you how I am going on. We are flooring, Raising, braceing & Launching off the frames fit for Mr. Morris to carrey of in order for sinking. I expect to finish this part of buseness if the weather be favourable about the middle of the next month. I have expended all the money which I rec'd and something considerable over and above, or due to the Workmen which is one and the same, I mean in Building Shades for ourselves and Barracks on the fort hill, together with the Chevaux de frize, &c., for wages, provisions, Rum and sundry materials besides what Mr. Morris has provided. I therefore desire, if it be agreeable to the Council of Safety, they will order Joseph Casson to receive for my acco^t to carrey on this buseness the further sum of five hundred.

I am Gentlemen, your,

most Obed^t humble Servt,

ROBT. SMITH.

Bellengsport, Oct'r 8th, 1776.

Directed—

To the Councel of Safety.

P^r favor Mr. Joseph Casson.

William Brown to Council, 1776.

Sir,

I hope you will pardon my freedom, and not Imagine that I in the least presume to dictate to you or any Member of your Honorable Body, but prompted by Experience and my Inclination of Serving the publick, beg leave to propose to you a method which I apprehend would be attended with much Benifit to the State in General and my people in particular. Tho' I am provided with as sober and orderly a Company of men as perhaps any in the Service, yet with great Concern I observe they make no Provision against the Inclemency of the approaching season, wherefore I would request that your Honorable Board, if to them it appeared proper or necessary, would order them such Cloathing and Bedding as the severity of the winter season might Demand, and cause the sum of Twenty or Twenty-five shillings to be deducted from their Wages monthly, untill the whole

Expence be defrayed. I would give orders therefor myself, but am unwilling to give my people umbrage by any Innovation in their payment, and am assured they would with Gratitude acknowledge that you had conferred a Favour upon them by compeling them to be provident, and prevent me from seeing a Number of hearty, Brave fellows chilled with Cold and rendered unfitt for present or future Service.

I am, Sir,

Your much Obliged,

hum'e Servt,

WILLIAM BROWN.

Philadᵃ, 9 Octbʳ, 1776.

Directed.

To Thos. Wharton, jun., Esqʳ,

President of the Council of Safety for the State of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Benjamin Rush to Council, 1776.

Friday, Oct. 11, 1776.

Sir,

The congress have ordered the board of war to confer with a committee of the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania (agreeable to their request) upon the propriety of having a few Battallions stationed in or near this city. The board of war will set this morning at 9 o'clock at the war office, at which time & place they expect the pleasure of meeting your committee. I beg leave to inform the council that such information was given yesterday in Congress respecting the designs of our enemies against this city, as makes the delay of a single day, or even an hour, dangerous.

I have the honor to be, sir,

with great respect,

your most humble Servant,

B. RUSH.

Directed,

The Honbˡᵉ Thomas Wharton, Esqʳ,

President of the Council of Safety.

Council to Robert Coleman, 1776.

Sir,

Philad^a, 11th Octob^r, 1776.

Sir,

The Council of Safety for the State of Pennsylvania earnestly request you to lay aside all other business, that you may dispatch the Large chain bars wch Mr. Peter Brown of this City has bespoke of you, the Council will make you a reasonable compensation for any disadvantages you may sustain by it; Mr. Brown assures us that you will exhert your best endeavours to forward it, and we hope you will not disappoint those expectations.

Your compliance will greatly promote the public Service, and a few lines in answer oblige y^r, &c.

By order of the Council.

Please to send down immediately such parts as are done.

Directed.

To Robert Coleman.

Major Ennion Williams to Council, 1776.

Thursday Morning, 11 o'clock,
Oct. 24, 1776.

Gentlemen,

I am this Moment informed by Captain Dehuff, who is just arriv'd in Town, that Captain Irwin has concluded to enter into the Continental Service, he is return'd in the List for Provincials.

It will therefore be necessary to appoint two Captains to compleat the Provincial Batalion.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your humble Servant,

ENNION WILLIAMS.

Directed,

The Honorable the Council of Safety.

Committee of New York to Council, 1776.

State of New York,
Fishkill, Octr 11, 1776.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Committee, appointed by the Convention of this State for enquiring into, detecting and defeating all Conspiracies formed in the State of New York against the Liberties of America, to inform you that they have sent into your State thirty-three Prisoners, most of whom are charged with treasonable Practices against the State, and the others too Dangerous to be suffered to remain within the same, in its present critical Situation.

This Committee lament the necessity which obliges them to trouble their sister State with Persons of this stamp; but, they trust that the peculiar and dangerous Situation which the State of New York is in at present will apologize for a Measure dictated by the most cruel necessity.

I shall forbear to enlarge on this Subject, referring your honorable Body for further Information to the Delegates of this State in continental Congress.

In full Confidence that the usual Zeal which the State of Pensilvania has always shewn to promote the public Cause, will be extended to this suffering State.

I have the Honor to be,
with Respect, Gentlemen,
Your Obedient humble Servant,
WM. DUER, Chairman.

Directed.

To the Honble the Council of Safety for the State of Pensilvania, Philadelphia.

Major Patton to Council, 1776.

Camp on York Island, near Head Qrs,
13th Octr, 1776.

Sir,

The indisposition of Colonel Brodhead obliged him to go to the Jerseys, in order to recover his health. Before he went away he desired I would (agreeable to the Resolve of the Council of Safety of the 5th Instant*) apply to the officers of our three Provincial Battalions, to know which of them wou'd Serve, in the Continental or Provincial Service on the new Establishment. I accordingly applied

* See Col. Rec. Vol. X. p. 743.

to such of them as are present, and have Inclosed you Lists of those that belong to each Battalion, with their Rank, and opposite to their names have set down which Service they are disposed to serve in.

Col. Brodhead did not tell me which he would Serve in, and Major Williams is now in Philadelphia; I suppose he has informed the Council of Safety which he is inclined to be with. But as seniority entitles the senior officers to have their Choice, and which to accept of, and my superiors not yet having made theirs, that with some private matters of my own, prevents my being able to give an answer on that Head before I come to Philadelphia.

I am,

With very great respect, Sir,

Your most Obliged H'ble Servt,

JNO. PATTON.

I beg you will lay the Inclosed applications before the Hon'ble the Council of Safety, they are from persons very deserving of what they apply for, being good soldiers & behaved well on Long Island.

Directed.

Owen Biddle, Esqr, Philadelphia.

Council to Brig. Gen. Mercer, 1776.

In Council of Safety for the State of Pennª.

Philad'a, October 14th, 1776.

Sir,

The Probability of this State being invaded renders it necessary for us to take effectual means for our Defence. We therefor send for three of the six Brass Field pieces belonging to this State now at Amboy, together with all their Stores, you will see the Necessity of this measure and forward the service all in their Power. By order of the Council.

I have the Honor to be with Respect,

Sir, Your very Humble Servt,

T. W., President.

Directed,

Brigr General Mercer.

Council of Safety to Henry Fisher, 1776.

In Council of Safety.

Philadelphia, October 14th, 1776.

Sir,

By accounts this day received from Amboy, we are informed that the Enemy have embarked at Staten Island, and there is reason to believe they are coming round to this place.

The Council therefore direct that you keep a vigilant look out & do order you to send two fast sailing Boats in Company, to look out from the Eastward of our Capes as far as Egg Harbour in order to gain the earliest Intelligence of the approach of the Enemy. Upon their discovering any fleet bound towards our Capes, one of the Boats is to put into Egg Harbour & send an Express to us by Land, and the other Boat is to give intelligence to you. Upon your receiving any certain Intelligence in this way or by the appearance of the Enemy, You are Immediately to give the Allarm by the Guns & Signals as formerly directed by the late Honorable Committee of Safety, and send off Expresses by Land as frequently as any new appearance of an Enemy occurs, or any new movements do appear of any consequence.

From your former assiduity and attention to your appointment, we have great confidence that you will exert every Power to give us the earliest Intelligence and by the most Expeditious and certain means, as the Safety of this City may much depend upon it.

By order of the Council.

DAVID RITTENHOUSE, V. President.*

—

Sir,

This Lett^r Came to me in this manner, open'd as you see; the Express Rider, Mr. Chamber opened it, Mr. Chamber fills the place of Mr. Rean, Wilmington, am S^r, your Humble S't,

MAT'W DELANY.

Tuesday morning, ¼ After Nine.

Directed,

To Mr. Henry Fisher, at Lewis Town. ℔ Express. On Public Service.

Indorsed,

From Mat'w Delany to Mr. French Battle, in Dover,—℔ Boy.

From Battell to Mr. Thos. Eavens, Seeder Creek, to be Dispached in Haist.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. X., p. 753.

Estimate of a Continental Regiment, 1776.

Estimate of a Continental Regiment.

1 Colonel,	75 Dolls.,	6 rations	1 Adjutant,	40 Dolls.,	3 rations
1 Lt Colonel,	60	5	Rank as first Lieutenant.		
1 Major,	50	4	1 Qr. master,	27½	2
8 Captains,	40	3	1 Surgeon,	33	3
8 1st Lieut's	27	2	1 Mate,	18	2
8 Second do.	27	2	1 Serjeant Major,	9	1
8 Ensigns,	20	2	1 Drum Maj.	9	1
1 Regimental paymas^r	40	3	1 Fife Major,	9	
Rank as first Lieutenant.			1 Qr. Master Serjeant,	9	
1 Chaplain,	33⅓	2			

8 Comp'ys, Each Company to have,
1 Captain, 1 First Lieut., 1 Second Lieut., 1 Ensign.

4 Serjeants,
4 Corporals,
1 Drummer,
1 Fife,
76 Privates, } 688

An allowance of 1¼ Dollar to be made for each recruit, in lieu of all expences exclusive of subsistance money, 1 dollar ℔ week each Private, 2½ dollars, each Commission Officer on recruiting service.

N. B. 50 ℔ ct. was added to the Regimental Commissioned officers only.

In Congress, Oct'r 7th, 1776.

Instructions to Cap. Boyd, 1776.

In Council of Safety.

Philada., October 14th, 1776.

Sir,

By inteligence received from Congress, it is apprehended that the Enemy have an intention to Land somewhere about Shrewsbury and pass over by Land to this City. In order that we may have the earliest advise of their movements in that quarter, the Council have appointed you to proceed to Shrewsbury, and when you arrive there you are advised to consult with the several Gentlemen, to whom you have a Letter of recommendation, on the best method of observing what the intentions of the Enemy are, and if there appears to be

any design of Landing any body of men, on any part of that coast, or any Number of Ships shaping their course towards the Capes of Delaware, you are to send an immediate and particular account thereof by Express, to this Council, for w'ch purpose you are to provide proper persons with horses to be ready at all times to carry any dispatches that you may make to us, the Expences of which will be defray'd by this board, we have only to add that you will use a proper Oeconomy & Secresy in transacting this business, but at the same time you are not to avoid any necessary expence. If any thing should occur to manifest the designs of the Enemy plainly, you may then return, otherwise you are to remain in that quarter until you have established through the Channel of our Friends, a certain mode of intelligence.*

Directed,
To Capt. Boyd.

Orders to Col. Samuel Mifflin, 1776.

In Council of Safety, Oct'r 14, 1776.

Sir,

The Council think it Necessary from Advices this day received, to send for three of the Brass field pieces belonging to this State left in New Jersey.

You are therefore requested to †send one of your Artillery Officers immediately to Gen[l] Mercer, to whom we shall write by the Officer you appoint for that Service.

Directed,
To Col. Sam'l Mifflin.

* See his answer postea.
† See Col. Rec. Vol. X. p. 755,—also, p. 41, this Vol.

To ——— FROM COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1776.

In Council of Safety.

Philada., 14 October, 1776.

Sir,

Congres has received intelligence from General Lee,* that the Hessians have embarked from Staten Island, and that there is too much reason to apprehend, they intend for this State. We therefore, most earnestly entreat you to exert yourself to the utmost to have your Battalion in perfect readiness to march, at the shortest warning. The Council will immediately procure the best Provisions & accommodations, and will give you notice the moment they find it absolutely necessary for you to march. The defence of our country depends on the spirit of its inhabitants, and we firmly rely on their Virtue & Patriotism, for the support of that Freedom which we have a right to enjoy & which we are bound to transmit unimpaired to posterity.

By order of the Council.

To ——

MAJOR PROCTOR TO COUNCIL, 1776.

Fort Island, Octr 15th, 1776.

Mr. President,

I would beg leave to offer my oppinion on a few particulars which Occur, to be necessary for our present safety.

First, That the floating Chevaux du freese's be brought and moored at their proper place, fit for sinking.

Secondly, The boom which at present is in a useless state, to be fix'd to the Piers as intended for service.

Thirdly, As the distance between the Eastmost piere and the west part of the Sunk Chevaux du freeze, admitt large Ships to pass with ease, whether it ought not to be properly secured, as the Chevaux du freese's for that purpose are floating along side the Fort Wharfe.

Fourthly, Having observed a Large Brigg under the care of Mich. Dorsey, to pass through the East Channell with safety, whether it might not be proper to move the Chevaux du freese's prepared at Gloster, to prevent the passing of any vessels at so great a distance

* See Col. Rec. Vol. X., p. 753.

from the Fort, which vessels are seldom, if ever, examined by the fleet, and might, through the means of subtile persons, pass Troops to the City undiscover'd, till too late.

Fifthly, As the 18 P'rs on board the Province Ship are too long to be work'd to any degree of advantage for action, if it would not be Expedient imediately to change them for Cannon, more suitable, and the present Cannon on Board to be mounted at Billingsport, to form a defence for, and with the Chevaux du freese's, and to send the six Gunns w'ch lays useless Mr. Morriss's Wharfe, to suitable places here I have to mount them on, untill they are wanted for other Service.

I remain, Sir,

Your most H^ble^ Servt,

THOS. PROCTOR.

Directed,

To the Hon'ble Council of Safety, Philadelphia.

Wm. Richards to Council of Safety, 1776.

Philadelphia, Octo^r^ 15th, 1776.

The Council Safety,

Gentl'n:

The Commodore was with me this morning, and says the Fleet has not any Colours to hoist if they should be called on Duty, it is not in my power to get them done, untill there is a design fix'd on to make the Colours by.

Gent'n: The people in and about Trenton, are in great Distress for the want of Salt, woud be glad if you will order some to supply them, they shall have it at your price and the Charges.

Remain, Gentl'n, your

most Obed't & very Hum'ble Serv't,

WM. RICHARDS.

Gentl'n, if it is not agreeable to let me have the Salt, you will please to order it to the Committee of Trenton.

Directed.

The Hon'ble Council of Safety, Pres't.

Henry Fisher to Council, 1776.

Lewis, Oct'r ye 16, 1776.

Gentlemen,

I Rec'd your letter* per Express, last night at half-past Eleven o'clock, wherein you order me to send two Pilot boats to Cruise to the Eastward, I must acquaint you that there is no boats here that can be got, that is any ways fit for the Service, they being all bought up by your Merchants to send to sea. You likewise desire me to keep a strict look out, which you may depend upon that I shall, as my Character is at stake, though but trifling to your City. I must acquaint you that I have placed a very good and trusty hand at the light house, to give me the Earliest Notice of the Approach of any of the Pyrates, and you may Relie upon it that my Whale boat and Express horse is all Ready at a moments call. I should have answered your Letter by the Express horses, but I did not know the moment that I might want them, as the wind has been Eastwardly for this several Days. Haveing no more to add at this time,

I Remain your Humble Servant to Command,

HENRY FISHER.

Directed,

To the Honorable Counsel of Safety, in Phila.

John Read to Jacob S. Howell, 1776.

Fort Island, 16th Octo'r, 1776.

Sir,

Pleas to present my Duty to the Hon. Council of Safety for the State of Pennsilvania, the Committee for this Island, and beg they would Indulge me with a line or two in the 2 following particulars, viz.: 1st, what quantity of wood ℔ week shall be Issued to a Barrack roome containing 15 or 16 men during the Winter season, and when that season is to commence, I mean at what months, &c.

2d, What quantity of wood to be Issued to each Galley vessel or Fier raft, that may be stationed here, as there are various opinions among the people, and a notion that at this Cold Station, they ought not to be put to any allowance of wood; as I could wish to be quite clear in my transactions, and do my Duty without giving offence or cause of murmuring; we had a very unlucky accident yesterday, a large new Flat coming in with wood, ran foule of the Chevix de freis now mored at the upper pear, pearced her starbord quarter, and

* See p. 42.

Sunk her in 3 or 4 Minets time; I gave her all the assistance in my Power, got the wood out with very little loss, stopt the leake as well as we could. I should be glad to have the Chevax de fries removed to the loer pear, likewise the Fier Brig which is now mored at the uper Pear, and prevents the wood Flats from landing their wood on the loer side of the Pear or wharf. I spoke to Mr. Coburn this Morning, he tels me he cannot remove the Chevax de freis without Orders, tho' its very posable both will lay as safe at the loer Pear, as at ye uper Pear. I could wish to have a small Cart and a Horse to hall wood from the wharff to the wood yard, which is now finished.

I am, with great regards,

Your Most Humble Serv't,

JOHN READ.

N. B.—Major Proctor tels me he proposes to lease Iron Stoves for the Barrack roomes, if so, I think it will be of great service, as the wether Bording of the Barracks are without lineings, and many Cracks and opening are two plain to be seen, thro' out the whole of ye rooms.

Directed,

To Jacob S. Howell, Esq., Secretary to the Hon. Council of Safety for the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Petition Capt. John David Woelpper, 1776.

To the Honorable the Council of Safety for the State of Pennsylvania.

The Petition of Capt. John David Woelpper, humbly sheweth,

That upon the recommendation of His Excellency, General Washington, under whose Command your Petitioner had served in the year 1759, as Lieutenant in the Expedition against the Indians, he, was lately appointed by the Honorable Congress Captain for an additional Company in the German Battalion.

Finding now that all the Captains of the said Battalion will take Rank before him, because their Commissions bear date a few weeks before his, so that the Man of 68 years of age, who was a Soldier 50 years, and Lieutenant in the brave Troops of Virginia 17 years ago, shall in every respect give precedency to those young Gentlemen, who under their Commissions become initiated Apprentices to the Duties of a Soldier, which your Petitioner could hardly support thinking off.

He now humbly prayeth, to translate him from the said Battalion, by appointing him a Field Officer of one of the twelve Battalions about to be raised in this State, flattering himself capable to act in all the duties required of a Field Officer.

And your Petitioner, as in duty, &c.,

D. WOELPPER.

Philada., Octob'r 17th, 1776.

ALEX. BOYD TO COUNCIL, 1776.

Perthamboy, Octob^r, 17th, 1776.

Honour^d S^r,

Agreeable to your orders* I proceeded To Serosbury Emediatly, where I found all in quitness, no appearance of any Enemy at present on that Coast. Some Day Last week upwards of twenty sail of Vessels fell Down to the hook, which gave Rise to the Report we Rec^d, But the Next Day the put to sea, a Due East Course, whither Bound is not Known, &c.

Agreeable to your orders I have Settled a Coraspondance with three Gentleman of that Department, to wit, Collonel Hendrickson, Collonel Taylor, & Mr. James Scrub, whos fidelity may be relied on from their publick Charrickter and attachment to the cause of America, &c., which has promised and Engaged that if anything Extrornery should happen or any Enemy atempt to Land in that Department, they will send off Express to you Emediatly.

I am, with Due Respect, your

Verry Humble Sev^t.

ALEX. BOYD.

Directed,

Mr. Thos. Wharton, Jun'r, President of the Honourable Counsel of Safety, Philadelphia.

GEO. TAYLOR TO COUNCIL, 1776.

Shewsberry, October 19th, 1776.

Sir,

I Can Inform You that Two Ships of War are Now passing our Quarter, and Standing along shore to the southw^d, we suppose they may Bound to the Capes, this Intelligence is by the Request of Capt. Boid, who hath Lately Been with me On s^d Acc^t. You may

* See page 43.

Depend upon Every Intilegen Necessary from your Verry Humble Servt.

GEO. TAYLOR.

We have a fleet of 64 sail Now Lying at Sandy hook, Inward Bound.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, Junr., Esq., President of the Committee of Safety, Philadelphia.

Pr. favor Captain Smock.

JAMES BLAIR TO COUNCIL, 1776.

Fort Island, Octr, 19th, 1776.

Gent,

Capt. Wirt has been detained here 'till this morning, as I did not think it prudent to remove the powder before, on acct of the weather, and by what I can learn Several of the Boats have had their Exchanged about ten days since. Have now only taken out one hundréd eighteen pound Cartridges, and the Ten for the Washington, & returns the rest by the shallop, thinking she will be wanted for other Business.

I am, Gent,

Yr very humble servt.

JAMES BLAIR.

Directed,

To the Hon'ble the Council of Safety, Philadelphia.

MAJOR T. PROCTOR TO COUNCIL, 1776.

Fort Island, Octr 19, 1776.

Mr. President,

Sir,

In compliance to your order in Council of the 16th Inst., have put the necessary business in motion to forward the Company of Artillery destined for Fort Montgomery, and believe an order for march might be comply'd with as soon as you think proper. The boats you ordered me to provide for use of Garrisson, dismis'd Immediately on Receipt of your opinion on the matter.

The orders dated in Council the 17th Inst, relative to any strangers Viewing the Fortifications and works, shall be duly attended too, till revers'd by your directions.*

Am yours, &c.

THOS. PROCTOR.

Directed,

To the Hon'ble Council of Safety, Philndelphia.

MAJOR WILLIAMS AND CAPTAIN FARMER TO COUNCIL, 1776

Philadelphia, October 21st, 1776.

To the Honorable the Council of Safety, for the State of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen,

The Returns of the Officers of the Provincials, shewing those who chuse to continue in the Provincial Service, are now before you agreeable to your request.

We beg Leave to assure you that there are now companies without Captains, Subalterns or Serjeants; and Captains with companies of so small a Number, as are only worthy of a Serjeant's care, and the Batalions in great confusion for want of a proper arrangement.

We therefore beg Leave to request you will this Day attend to this matter, which we apprehend of very great Importance; and shall be glad you will at Least determine on the arrangement of the Captains and Subalterns for the Provincial Batalion.

We are with the great Esteem,

Gentlemen,

Your very humble Servants,

ENNION WILLIAMS, Major.

LEWIS FARMER, Captain.

Directed,

The Honorable the Council of Safety.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. X., p. 758.

Major Ennion Williams to Council, 1776.

Thursday Morning.

Gentlemen,

It has been a matter of concern to Colonel Miles and many of our Officers that our Serjeants were not properly appointed and supplied with Warrants from the Committee of Safety, or as in England from the Colonel of the Regiment; and now while you are arranging the Provincials, it will be a proper Time to give Orders, respecting the Regulation of all the noncommissioned Officers, viz., Serj^ts, Corporals, Drum^rs & Fife^rs, which you know are some of the most useful Persons in the Army, when under proper Regulations and supported by their Officers.

It is with Deference I take the Liberty of offering from Time to Time a few Hints respecting the Troops; the motives to which you may depend on are solely the Good of the Regiment, and the Promotion of Military Discipline.

I am, with the highest Esteem, Gentlemen,

Your humble Servant,

ENNION WILLIAMS.

Directed,

The Honourable the Council of Safety. Pres^t.

Major Thos. Proctor to Council, 1776.

Philadelphia, Octob^r 24th, 1776.

Mr. President,

Sir,

As the Times of sundry of the Artillerymen for which they inlisted, will expire the 27th of next month, in which matter beg to have your advice, especially as my band of musitions are in that number, who from private Incouragement offered to them, are Intending to Joyn some other Core, at said expiration; I cannot find out who the persons are, as they keep it secret, But am convinced the persons thus acting use me verry ungenerous, as I have been at a Considerable expence having bought all their musick & Instruments, and paid each person who played on the Viol, 5*s.* ℔ month for their strings. I hope you will take premises in consideration and order it, as in your wisdom you may think meet.

I am most respectfully yours,

THOS. PROCTOR.

Directed,

To the Hon'ble Councell of Safety, Philadelphia.

Commission to Col. Lambert Cadwalader, 1776.

In Congress.

The Delegates of the United States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, To Lambert Cadwalader, Esquire.

We, reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct and Fidelity, Do, by these Presents, constitute and appoint you to be Colonel of the fourth Pennsylvania Regiment of Foot, in the Army of the United States, raised for the Defence of American Liberty, and for repelling every hostile invasion thereof. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of Colonel by doing and performing all manner of Things thereunto belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all Officers and Soldiers under your Command, to be obedient to your Orders as Colonel. And you are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions from Time to Time, as you shall receive from this or a future Congress of the United States, or Committee of Congress, for that Purpose appointed, or Commander in Chief for the Time being of the Army of the United States, or any other your superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, in Pursuance of the Trust reposed in you. This Commission to continue in Force until revoked by this or a future Congress.

Dated at Philadelphia, October 25th, 1776.

By Order of the Congress.

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

Attest—Chas. Thomson, Sec'y.

Henry Fisher to Council, 1776.

Lewes, October 25th, 1776.

Gentlemen,

On Monday last was held at this Town an Election for members of Assembly, and Legislative Council, to represent this County in the General Assembly of the Delaware State, which day exhibited such a scene of disaffection to the common cause of America, as I think have not been equal'd by any transaction on this Continent since the commencement of the present dispute with Great Britain.

The few friends of America in this County, almost worn out with perpetual Contention, & convinced that further struggles were fruitless, determined for some time past not to concern in the Election, and but very few of them come to Town; the Tories, (for so I think I may justly call them,) flocked in to the number of between five and six hundred. pritty early in the day,; at about 12 o'clock, one of them turn'd out by the others for a Bully, came to me when seting at my own door followed by a croud, and demanded an Ax to cut down the Liberty Pole standing in the street, and on my refusing he seized me by the Breast in order to drag me into the Street, but by struggling and the assistance of some friends I got clear of the mob and safe into my House, where I was obliged to keep close the remaining part of the day; the mob threatening to roast me alive if they could get me into the street. In a short time after they left me, they by some means procured an Ax and went in a Body to the Pole and cut it down, when it fell, the Streets resounded with Huzza for King George and General Howe, execrations against the Congress, Whigs, &c. They then took the Top of the Pole, on which part the Independent flag had been us'd to be hoisted, and carried it in derision about the Town, followed by the Croud throwing up their Hatts and Huzzaing for the King, and when tired with that kind of mockery, set it up at publick sale, struck it off it is said for thirteen pence, meaning I suppose Hangman's Wages. After this, one of their Gang placed himself in the Court House door with a large Hickory club, which he held across the door, saying every person who came in there should declare himself for the King, thus forcibly Electing a number of thier Junto to represent them in the General Assembly of this State, one of whom has been disarmed by a Committee of the late Assembly of this Government, as an Enemy to the Liberties of America, and another of whom has been convicted of being unfriendly to the common cause before the Committee of Safety of this County.

The friends of America here, convinced from the conduct of that day that seting down inactive will not protect them from the rage and fury of this disaffected Banditti, have Petitioned the Assembly of this State, for protection for their persons and property, what weight it may have is not yet known, but certain it is, if these disaffected wretches are permitted thus to go on, it will be dangerous for any friend to this country to travel the public Roads in this County a little time longer, and I am well satisfied that if there was only one thousand English Troops landed in any place within their reach, they would flock to them almost to a man. These circumstances must be very alarming to Pennsylvania, if properly considered, for was a Body of English to be landed here, this County, if not the whole Goverment must fall into their hands, and the few friends to the common cause residing here, become a sacrifice to their relentless fury, and they would be supply'd with provisions, &c., while they

made War upon your State. That this event may never happen is the sincere wish of,

Gentlemen,

Your most Obedient and very

Humb^l

Sev^t,

HENRY FISHER.

N. B. When I received the inclos'd letter, it was broken open as you will see by the certificate of Mr. Delany, and have sent to you that you may take such order to discover the perpetrators as you think fit.

H. F.

Directed,

To the Honorable the Committee of Safety,
for the State of Pennsylvania.

To care of Col. McKean.

Indorsed,

From Henry Fisher, October 25th, 1776.

Received at Newcastle, Oct. 30th, and forwarded by their most humble servant,

THO. M'KEAN.

THOMAS SAVADGE TO S. HOWELL, 1776.

Pennsylvania Salt Works, Tom's River,
Oct'r 26th, 1776.

Gentlemen,

I have drawn on you in favour of Mr. Joseph Salter, for six hundred pounds, which sum I have rec^d of him, but not made use of more than one hundred; my reason for so drawing is, Mr. Salter has money in his hands, arisein from the sales of a cargoe of Rum being a prize belonging to the Continental Congress, which he must remitt to Mr. Nesbitt, of whom I rec'd my last orders, I thought it might be more convenient in so doing as it would be attended with many inconveniences for me to come to town on that account only, at this time when my constant attendance here his more Necessary than heretofore; he has more in his hands, and if agreeable to you, should be glad you will suffer me to draw in like manner for what further sums I may want, has I cannot without the greatest inconve-

nience, come to Town untill I get the Works going, Which, when I engaged in, I expected to have done in a much shorter time, but the many inconveniences ariseing from ye times, my people being drafted every month, & new ones to look for & not a sufficient number to be got, has thrown me much behind my expectations in getting the works erected; however, I hope in a short time to be doing a little, & shall do everything in my power to gatt the Works compleated as fast as possible. Likewise, shall take care not to draw on you for more money then necessary which will be considerably more then my estimate or expectation, shall do everything in my power to make the works Compleat and serviceable with as much frugality as lays in my power. I have nearly compleated a boiling house one hundred sixty-nine feet long, twenty-nine feet wide, a store sixty feet long, twenty feet wide, compleated two drying houses, a small Kitchen, Lime house, stable finished, mill work for my pumps in good forwardness, will be compleat before I shall get my boilers from Colonel Coxe's Furnaces, whose people have disappointed me, or should have had part of the works going before this. Also, a large quantity of stuff Joynted and ready for flooring the sun-pans, &c., with many other things, such as ditching, laying Trunks, &c. Should be glad one or two gentlemen of your board would come and see how I am laying out the publick money, that I may have your aprobation, or alter anything you disaprove, here his no musquetoes or flys to offend now, no house except a small kitchen without a chimney, but a good Store for Lodging, and salt hay for feather beds, plenty of wild-fowl in the bay & deer in the woods, but no powder or shott, which last articles if any one comes with intent to hunt any, he must bring with him, for other accommodations such as Lodging, &c., can be had at Mr. Mott's, about a mile from me, should think it a particular favour done me, that some one or more of you would come on many accounts; you will see what prospect there his of the works answering, also, what things I stand in need of, both for protection & accommodation.

I am

Gentlemen,

Your most Humble servant,

THOMAS SAVADGE.

P. S. On Sunday last, ye 20 Inst., at day Break, appeared at the mouth of our inlet, four large Frigates, endeavouring to get as close in as possible, which is not more than four miles from me, the drew up in a line right abreast of me, hauled up their courses & laid their Topsails back, in which position the continued till near twelve o'clock; I expected a viset from them, and believe nothing prevented it but its being a very low tide, the flats being very bare, and seeing upwards of thirty of us on the shore, made them afraid to send their boats in, otherwise I think ye fully intended it, which

had ye done, we must have left it to their mercy for want of arms &c., to defend it.

Directed,

To Messrs. George Clymer, Samuell Howell,
& Owen Biddle, Esqr's, in Philadelphia.

HUGH MONTGOMERY TO COUNCIL, 1776.

To the Honourable the Council of Safety:

Gentlemen:

The night of the 28 Inst it being may Guard in the Estern Channell, about 7 o'clok Dauson the pilot Cam through the Channel verry abruplay, and wold not bring too; I sent may boat after him, and was almost at Chester befor the boat Could overhal him, and without a Permit from the board. Gentlmen, we hav had several instances of this kind, and wold be glad this Honourable Board will see into it.

Your Very Humble serven to Command,
HUGH MONTGOMERY.

P. S.—before the smal boat Could return, their was several veshels past without Overhaling for want of her.

Effingham, Octr 29, 1776.

PETITION EZEKIEL LETTS, 1776.

To the Honourable Council of Safety for the State of Pennsylvania.

The Petition of Ezekiel Letts, late Lieutenant in Col. Wayne's Battalion,

Humbly Sheweth,

That Your Petitioner Went from here in the beginning of the Year for Cannada an Ensign, and has Since been Promoted to the Rank of Lieutenant in the above Battalion.

Your Petitioner having labour'd under a long Sickness and became exceeding Weak, induced him to request his discharge for the recovery of his health, which the General was pleased to grant, and

now being greatly recoverd and growing hearty, begs leave to offer himself a Candidate for a Captaincy in the eleventh Battalion,

And Your Petitioner, as in Duty bound, shall ever Pray.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Letts for several years, and beg leave to recommend him as a prudent, sensible, worthy man, & warmly attached to the American cause.

BENJ. RUSH.

Octob^r 31, 1776.

Doct. Benjamin Rush to Council, 1776.

Sir:

In consequence of the letter from Mr Fisher to the Counsel of Safety of Pennsylvania being laid before Congress, the Congress resolved that the board of war should immediately order a part of a Virginia regiment now on the Eastern Shore of Maryland to march to Dover, there to wait for such Orders as the future accounts they shall receive from the Sussex tories shall render necessary.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

B. RUSH.

Friday, Nov. 1st, 1776.

Directed.

The Honble President of the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania.

John Bull to Council of Safety, 1776.

Sir:

I was last week in ye Provintial Store, and find that we have neither Wheelbarrows, Spades, Grubing-hoes, Pitchingaxes, nor Pickaxes, and but very few Shovals, &c. I Beg leave to recommend an Immediate Procurement of an Assortment, as follows, Viz:

200 Wheelbarrows, Made of Tough Split Stuffs.
200 Pitchingaxes.
200 Spades.
400 Shovals.
100 Grubbinghoes.
100 Pickaxes, and a few Handsaws, Drawing Knives, Broad-axes, &c.

I am of Opinion the Wheelbarrows would be better done in the Country, Were the wood is Cheaper; the Pitching axes I think would be well done by Mr. Levering, Mr. Peterman; or Wilkhard Miller; the other Tools are most Commonly Us'd in the Country, and therefore think the Blacksmiths there, are best acquainted with the Proper Kind, &c.

If the Counsil think any Part of the above worthy their notice, I make no doubt they will take Proper Steps to Procure them.

I am, Sir, your Hubl Servt,

JNO. BULL.

Directed,

To Thos Wharton, Esqr, Preside of ye Council of Safety, or in his absence to ye Vice Preside.

ÆNEAS MACKAY TO COL. JAMES WILSON, 1776.

Kittaning, 6th Nov., 1776.

My Dear Colonel,

Having wrote you a long letter the other day by Capt Boyd, I have only to inform you at this time, that I am apprehensive that the conduct of the officers of this Battalion will on this, as well as on former occasions, have bad effect on the men.

Two of the Officers came in an Insolent manner to me this morning, saying they would Resign, Repeating those words as fast as they could speak, upon which I ordered them under an arrest to their camp; this they Refused, I therefore committed them immediately to the common Guard house, & will stand their trial this Day before a General Court-martial, composed of such officers as can be got at this time, who if they will do their Duty, will sentence them to be Drummed out of the Regt. I have reason to expect more trouble of this kind, before we will get to the other side of the Hills. I am Hurried almost out of my life, so I beg you will excuse the singularity of this laconic Epistle, in the meantime,

I am,

Dear Colonel,

Your most humble,

and most Obedt servt,

ÆN'S MACKAY.

Directed,

(On the Service of the United States.)

Colonel James Wilson,

Member of the Honorable the Congress, Philada.

JOHN READ TO COUNCIL, 1776.

Fort Island, 6th Nov'r, 1776.

Gentlemen,

Oake wood is rarely to be got of Flats going up to Philada., which Obliges me to take Hickory rather than leave this Station without a proper suply for the Winter, this I hope will be admitted for my takeing such as comes to hand. It would be very agreeable to me, would the Committee of Fort Island fix on the quantity of Oake or Hickory wood, to be a week's allowance for a Barrack room for Sixteen men, as they aprehend, I take upon me to allowance them, from my own authority, which may prove a disagreeable employment to me, as they have not been put to that restriction nor was it metearial during the Summer. I think it will be of great service to have Iron stoves, as it will be a saveing of wood. If I have any Influence with the Committee, do recommend them. Our Barracks are far from being close and warme as those in the Citey, as they are not plaster'd and many Cracks and knot holes too plainly apear in the wether bordings. I am sorrey to say I can get no assistance from the people here to carrey and pile Wood, and rather than let wood lay long on the Wharff, hove been obliged to take the men from the Banks to store wood as it comes. I have not quite one hundred Cords in Store, and it will take upwards of three hundred cords to suply this Garrison, should the river be froze over before a proper suply is obtained, it will be extremely uncomfortable. This Obliges me to take what comes to hand. I cannot help repeating the request, that the proper allowance to each Barrack may be fixt, and if posable Stoves sent down.

I am,

With great regard,

Your most Obedient,

Humble Serv't,

JOHN READ, B. Master.

Directed,

To Joseph Blewer, Esq'r.,

and Committee for Fort Island, members of the Hon. Council of Safety, for the State of Pennsylvania.

Henry Fisher to Council, 1776.

Gentlemen,

Having this opportuity by Capt'n Wiley, I think it my duty to inform you that on Tuesday last, there was two men of War off Indian River, which I apprehend are cruising to obstruct your Trade. They might have been into our Bay if they were inclined so to do.

There were some persons went on board from Indian River who gave me this account. I shall refer you to Capt'n Wiley, who was present at my House when I got this information. I should have sent this by the Express Horses, but did not know when I might want them for something more material, but you may rest assured that I shall do everything in my Power, to give you the earliest inteligence when any of his Majesty's Pirates are making up our Bay, in the meantime I remain,

Gentlemen,

your humble Serv't,

HENRY FISHER.

Lewestown, Nov'r 7th, 1776.

Directed,

To the Honourable the Counsel of Safety, in Philadelphia.

Pr Capt. Wiley.

Geo. Meade & Co., to Council, 1776.

Sir,

The H'ble Congress having directed the Prisoners at Bristol to be removed into some more remote part of this State, the Canadian Officers there, have requested us to apply to your board for Permission to go to Lancaster, as they are told they can be there better accommodated than in any of the smaller towns. We shall esteem it a favor that you lay their request before the Councill who we don't doubt will grant it if it is a proper one.

We are,

Sir,

Yr most h'ble Serv'ts,

GEO. MEADE & CO.

November 6, 1776.

Directed.

To Mr. Thos. Wharton, Esq.

Resolution of Congress, 1776.

In Congress, Nov'r 11, 1776.

Resolved, That the board of war, be impowered & directed to confer immediately with the Council of Safety of Pensylvania, as a Committee by them appointed on the best way & means, of defending this city in case it should be attacked.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Daniel Joy to D. Rittenhouse, 1776.

Reading Furnace, Nov'ber 11th, 1776.

Sir:

By this opport'ty you have two Nine Pounder (cannon) Proved with Eight pounds of Powder, two shot & three Wadds, It was with difficulty that I could keep the people to worke after they were informed the cannon were to be proved with so great a proof. But now finding they stand it, they go on cheerfully, and I am in hopes shall cast one every day. I intend to cast Six of the same size with those & after that they will be somewhat larger, as I were Oblidged to enlarge the Mould to Sattisfy the workmen before had an opport^ty of Proving one. I make no doubt but they will stand Nine lb powder, &c.

I am with Esteem,

Yours, &c.,

DANIEL JOY.

Directed,

To David Rittenhouse, Esq'r,
at Philada.

John Mitchell to Council, 1776.

12 Novem'r, 1776.

Gentlemen,

I am sorry to be Obliged to trouble you any further on the subject of furnishing the Troops with Provisions, but hope you will excuse me when you consider my uncertain situation as Commissary. I must request the favour of your Honorable board to consider of

this matter & be so kind as to let me have your Answer. I have herewith annexed an exact estimate of the present expence and it is very probable it will be more; however, I am willing to run all risques at the rate of 15¼ ℔ ration, under that it is not in my power to do it, as I shall not then have above a farthing a man for my Trouble. I beg you will favor me so far as to settle it as soon as Possible, as my uncertain situation respecting this matter is very inconvenient to me & atended with considerable loss.

I am with great respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most Obed^t humble Servt,

JNO. MITCHELL.

10lb Beef ℔ Week @	4½*d.*,	-	-	-	£0	3	9
7lb Bread,	1½	-	-	-			10½
7 half Pints Rum,	6	-	-	-		3	6
Vegitables,	-	-	-	-			6
					£0	8	7½

℔ Week, exclusive of Porterage, Store Rent, & Clerk hire.

Directed.

Hon. Council of Safety, of the State of Pennsylvania.

Wm. Richards to Council, 1776.

Gent^m,

I wish you could order a few Tons of hemp to the store, it would be the means of preventing Impositions from the Rope makers. Mr. Coburn has sent to the store some Rope and Junk with 2 small anchors, the cables are the thing we want most, what has he done with them. I have bought several old anchors and sent them two months ago, to Mr. Offley to be mended he says the Gent^m who has the care of the Frigates, has ordered him not to work for any body else, beg that something might be done so that we may have the anchors which are much wanted for the Boats.

I remain your h^m,

your most obed^t,

Humble Serv't,

WM. RICHARDS.

Nov'r 12th, 1776.

Directed,

The Hon'ble Council of Safety, Pres^t.

Peter Tallman to Council, 1776.

Dear Sir,

I have been informed that your Honourable the Council of Safety, has sent a Quantity of salt into the County of Hunterdon, in the State of New Jersey, in order to Distribute amongst the people of said County, & as the County of Burlington in said State, is in a Distrest situation for the want of that necessary article, I do humbly Request that you, as a member of the Council of Safety, do solicit your Honourable body in b'half of said County, to send as large a proportion of salt as the Circumstance of the times will admit of, to the Subscriber, who will take due care that it be propperly Distributed amongst the Inhabitant of said County, your compliance will much oblidge,

Your Very Humb'e Serv't,

PETER TALLMAN.

Nov. 13th, 1776.

N. B.—Send the salt to White hill or Bordentown.

P. T.

Directed.

To Thomas Wharton, Esq., Philadelphia.

Thomas Nevell to Council, 1776.

Gentlemen,

I profess myself at a Loss to know how to act with respect to those Carriages which I have in hand, least I should be too forward or too Remiss, and in order to proceed on the line of Deuty, shall request your direction, and for that purpose shall give you an account how far I have proceeded, viz.: The first 6 Spare Carriages which I undertuck at Request of the three difrant Captains, Loxley, Moulder & Stiles, have bin at Mr. Wheeler's since the 18th of August last, and are not yet finished. The other six spoke to me for, by Major Loxley, a few days after I came from Amboy, are nearly finished, as also one Carriage for a double fortified 4 lb'r, which Maj^r Loxley spoke for likewise, but since denies giveing any direction for. Note the above twelve are Eight six pounders & 4 twelve pounders. I have also put three more 6 lb'rs Carriages together at my owne risk, as I had some good stuff for that purpose, but have not as yet ingaged the Wheels or Smith work. And as to the twenty Large trail Carriages Order'd by Major Proctor, (about ye 22d of

August,) the stuff for them is all saw'd, and 16 of them ready for the Smith work.

Including three that was taken to the Fort, I have likewise made the Carriage for the Schuylkill Gun. Now the principal thing I have to request, is wether I have suficiant athoraty to imploy the Smith's for those large Carriages or not; I had proposed in my Owne mind to divide them as near as may be among the three foloing Black-Smith's, viz., Daniel Evans, Valentine Hoffman & Martin Pendergrass, and the Chief reason why Caution is Necessary with the Black-Smiths, especially the last mentioned, is some expressions he made use of in my yard, such as he understud some folks had a nack of Cliping Acco^ts, that Ship work was at 12^d ⅌^r lb^d, and that work, (the Carriage) was worth 18^d, &c. &c. Therefore, I thought it most prudent not to send any of the Carriages to ye Smith's, without your Aprobation, especially to Pendergrass.

As to the Field Carriages, I have alredy open'd an Acco^t with most of the Tradesmen confer'd, and actually paid above three hundred pounds towards them. Now if this Honorable board Pleas to give me such orders as they think proper conserning the Carriages, or any part thereof, I shall carre them inte Executio to the utmose of my Abilatys, and remain the Council's Humble Servt,

THOS. NEVELL.

Novem^r 13th, 1776.

Directed,

To the Honorable Council of Safety, Present.

JOHN GIBSON TO COUNCIL, 1776.

Treasury Office, Philadelphia, Nov'r 13, 1776.

Sir,

The Congress having some time since resolved, that the respective United States, should be desired to appoint a proper person to take care of the Prisoners of War within its Jurisdiction, and pay them their Allowance. I am desired by the Superintendant of the Treasury to enquire of you Sir, if the Council of Safety for the State of Pennsylvania have yet chosen such Person, and if not, to request they would proceed to the choice of one, as soon as possible, and have the name certified to this Office. I am,

Sir,

with much Respect,

Your most obedient

and very Humble Serv't,

JOHN GIBSON,

Aud'r Gen'l.

Directed—

To the Honourable Thomas Wharton, Jun., Esq., President of the Council of Safety for the State of Pennsylvania.

A LIST OF SUCH ARTICLES ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO EXPEDITE THE SINKING CHEVAUX DE FRIZE AT BILLINGSPORT, 1776.

For the present gang of hands Employ'd one Anchor of 11 to 1300 weight, & 2 buoy Ropes about 6 Inches, & 20 fathom long.
For a second sett of hands.
2 Anchors from 11 to 13 or 1400 weight each.
2 Cables about 11 Inches each.
4 Buoy Ropes about 6 inches & 20 fathom long.
2 Kedge Anchors 150 to 300 wt., & 2 Towlines of 3 Inches, and 1 Towline of 7½ Inches, to Heave off by, each 100 to 120 fathom long.
2 Large long Boats, with Windlass's & David's, and a Sheave forward in each.
1 Six or Eight Oar'd Barge.
Sundry Coils of Rigging, of 2½ to 3 Inches, and 30 or 40 Good Water Cask, & Two Shallops, unless the Council of Safety think it proper to Employ those now bringing Stone. The men belonging to the Gally's now Engaged in this Service, for want of warm Cloathing, are not Capable of doing half Duty, & if the Weather Changes a little more severe than at present, will be good for nothing.

SAML. MORRIS, JUN.

Nov. 13th, 1776.

JOHN MOOR TO COL. HENRY HILL, 1776.

Fort Lee, 14th Nov'r, 1776.

Sir,

By Col'l Hampton I had the pleasure of hearing of your enjoying perfect health, which give me the utmost pleasure; it is sometime since we arrived at this place, where we live in the Woods in Tents, there is a constant expectation of an action opposite to us at Fort Washington, which make no doubt will be in a short time; Yesterday past by this place Lord Sterling's Brigade, on their way to Brunswick; it is thought the Enemy is on their way to the South-

ward. The Bearer, Captain Henderson, is going to Philadelphia, to apply for a Capt's Commiss'n, I realy must take the Liberty of Recommending him to your notice, as it Lays in power to serve him, as he is a Gent'n fiting to fill any Station he may apply for, and his Behavour in my Batt'n I speak much in his praise.

With Major Burk's best Comp'ts to you, I am,

D'r Sir,

Your most Obed't H'ble Serv't,

JOHN MOOR.

Directed,

To Col. Henry Hill, Esq., Philadelphia.

Council to Gen. Mercer, 1776.

Sir,

As there is the greatest prospect of a visit from the Enemy very shortly, it is the opinion of the Board of War, as well as this Council, that the Artillery belonging to this State, with their stores, be immediately returned. The Council request General Mercer to forward them with the utmost Dispatch, under the Care of the Bearer, Capt. Grice.

By Order of the Council.

Gen. Mercer.

In Council of Safety for Pennsylvania, Nov. 14th, 1776.

P. S.—If it is certain that the Enemy do not intend to pay a visit to this State by Water, then General Mercer will please to detain the Artillery for the safety of New Jersey.

Council to Commodore Seymour, 1776.

In Council of Safety, Philada. Nov. 14th, 1776.

Sir,

You are not to permit any Sea Vessels to pass down the River below the Chevaux du frize, without special License from this board, or further orders.

By order of Council.

To Commodore Seymour.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 4.

JAMES REED TO CHARLES THOMSON, 1776.

Dear Sir,

The Bearer has something of the utmost moment to the Service of the States to communicate to Congress. I beg you will hear him and introduce him to that very Honorable Body. I am so engaged in the Committee, that I cannot write more, and indeed I think I need not, as the man can best tell what he has to offer. If he can do what he says he can, he will do wonders and a most signal Service to his Country.

Your most h'ble servt.

JAMES READ.

Reading, November 16, 1776.

Directed,

To Charles Thomson, Esqr, Secretary to the Hon'ble Congress Philadelphia.

By Mr. Jacob Giesling.

Gentlemen,

The bearer has a scheme to propose of fire rafts for burning Vessels. I have, therefore, referred him to you for examination of his plans.

CHAS. THOMSON.

To the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania.

GEO. STEVENSON TO COUNCIL, 1776.

Carlisle, Novr, 16th, 1776.

Gentlemen,

By Michael Boyer, your express, I receiv'd yr Packet inclosing yr circular Letter to the several Colonels of the Militia Associators; I have already engaged the necessary Expresses who will set out with the Letters in about an Hour: I have no doubt of the readiness of the good men of Cumberland County to march on the shortest Notice, but believe We are very short of Arms. It is said the Treaty is over, the Commissioners are not yet returned.

I am, Gentlemen,

your most obedient,

H'ble Servt,

GEO. STEVENSON.

Directed,

On the Service of the State of Pennsylvania. The Hon'ble the Council of Safety of the State of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia.

By Mich[l]. Boyer, their Express.

Committee at Trenton to Council, 1776.

In Committee, Trenton, Nov[r] 16th, 1776.

Gentlemen,

We received the 500 Bushels of salt directed to us to be Disposed amongst the Inhabitants of the State of New Jersey, which we have sold agreeable to your Instructions in the small Quantity of half a Bushel to each applyer. And in their Behalf we beg you to accept our most Sincere Thanks for this very seasonable tho' scanty supply.

Permit us to Represent to you that the Necessities of the Inhabitants of this State for this absolutely necessary article are extremely Urgent, we shall use no Arguments to Engage Your further consideration, being perfectly assured from your past kind attention to us that you will as soon as possible Grant such further supply as may be in your power.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your most H'ble Ser[ts],

By Order of Committee,

DAVID PINKERTON, Clk.

P. S. We have paid Capt. Richards for the salt, also ye Expence attending the Delivery, &c.

Directed,

To the Honourable Council of Safety, for the City and County of Philadelphia.

John Read to Council, 1776.

Sir,

This with a return of work an account of sundry disbursments will be handed to Capt. Blewer by William Smith. I found myself under the necessity of advancing the wages of the Ditchers, or they were determined to leave the work unless I did allow them 6[d]

more, rather then suffier them to seperate, I promised it to them, they were offer'd more, and as every necessary wanted by thes people are greatly Increased, thay have some reason of that advance in there dayly pay. . If it should be desagreeable to the Board, pleas to segnefy it to me, but should they be suffer to leave the works not finished, it may be of Infinite dammge, but submitt to your determination, and am, with submision, Your Most Humble Servt,

JOHN READ.

Fort Island, 18th Nov. 1776.

Directed,

To Joseph Blewer, Esq., Southwark, Philadelphia.

Henry Fisher to Council, 1776.

Lewistown, Novr 19th, 1776.

Gentlemen,

Having this opertunity by Mr. Andrew Purviane, I must inform you that yesterday there was Seven Large Vessels seen from the Light house about five or six Leagues to the Southward of the Cape, which I apprehend are the same vessels that have been off here for this two weeks Past, this Day they are not to be seen from the Light houses. Although the wind has been this 12 hours to the Southward, they are bound, I amagine, to the Northward, or they might have been in to Day, as they have had two Tides of flood since they Appear'd in sight. Mr. Purviance was at the Light house when the ships hove in sight; if they should make up our bay you may Depend that I have all things in Readdiness to Give you the Earliest Accounts you may Depend upon it.

I am in haste, Gentlemen, your most

Oblig'd Humble Servant,

HENRY FISHER.

Directed,

To the Honorable the Council of Safety, in Philadelphia.

Lewis Nicola to Council, 1776.

Wednesday, Nover. 20th, 1776.

Sir,

As possibly the affair of the stable, which I mentioned to you yesterday morning, may have sliped your memory, and I may be herafter blamed for not having informed the Council of the circumstances thereof, before the public money is expended thereon, should the man who claims it obtain the consent of the Council for removing it.

Capt. Hay, of the artillery, built the stable on ground belonging to the barracks, and sold the materials to a man that lives in the country.

Coll. Hempton informed me, the night before last, that the officers commanding corps in the barracks were to meet there yesterday morning to settle the disposition of the rooms in the most convenient manner, I, agreeable to the information, attended, and it was agreed that room should be made in the wing occupied by the German Battalion for Capt. Doyle's company, and that the cellars should be filled with men, this arangement will make 20 rooms, as soon as the Flying Camp men march out, and 50 cellars for the reception of troops, in consequence of this I have directed that the cellars should be cleaned and fitted for the reception of men. I beg the favour you will acquaint the Council with this.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedt Servant,

LEWIS NICOLA.

Be so kind to acquaint the Council that 18 wagons with sick men from the camp and four this morning, came to the barracks, the men say more wagons are on the road and two shallops coming down the river.

LEWIS NICOLA.

Directed,

To the Secretary of the Hon'ble Council of Safety.

Extract of a Letter from Gen. Mercer, 1776.

Dated Elizabeth Town, 20th, Nov. 1776.

Intelligence was brought me last night that the enemy intend to reduce Fort Lee, and then to march thro' the Jerseys to attack Philadelphia.

All the Transports that draw the least water are preparing to take in troops, their Destination was only conjectured to be against Philadelphia or South Carolina, the Transports carry Fascines on their Quarters. Houses are taken up in New York to barrack Ten Thousand men, but it is given out, and firmly believed in the Army, that they will not go into winter Quarters before another attempt is made to reduce some Part of the Coast.

I hope to be able to give further Information in a few Days.

—

Gent^n^,

The foregoing Extract I send you by Desire of Congress, & is the whole Information Congress are possess'd of relative to the Designs of the Enemy.

I am, Gent^n^,

Your very hum^e^ Servt,

JOHN HANCOCK, Pre^t^.

Directed,

To the Hon^e^ the Council of Safety of the State of Pennsylvania.

JOSEPH HUFF TO COUNCIL, 1776.

Hibernia Furnace, New Jersey,
21st Novem^r^, 1776.

Gentlemen,

The above works are now employ'd in makeing Canon, large Round Shott, Grape Shott, &c., for the publick service, and 'tis expected the Works will continue in Blast 'till late in January, but as it is now the time to lay in a stock of provisions, and I have no Salt to cure it with, I must beg that you will be pleas'd to send me 30 bushels by the bearer, Mr. Henry Howell, or to whom he may order the same, otherwise I must immediately putt the Works out of Blast & cannot compleat the orders I have rec^d^, which I presume will be very prejudicial to the Interest of this Country, as at this time I know of no other Furnace in this Province in Blast, or that the stores of Ordinance can be Supply'd. My Great want of the above Article does not leave me time to apply to the Quarter Master Genl for a proper Letter to you on the subject.

I am, with much respect, Gent^n^,

Your most h'ble Servt,

JOS. HUFF,
Manager of the above Works.

Directed,

To the Chairman of the Committee for the City of Philadelphia.

Minutes of a Meeting at the Indian Queen, 1776.

At a meeting of the following respectable Citizens of Philadelphia and other parts of the State of Pennsylvania, at the Indian Queen in Fourth street, on the 25th day of November, 1776, to wit:

Thomas McKean, Ch^rman. Jno. Chalonier, Clk.

James Ash,
Emanuel Eyres,
Lt Colonel Parke,
Benj. Eyres,
Jno. Laboyteaux,
Dr. Jackson,
Major Becker,
Capt Barry,
Dd. Chambers,
Jno. Wilson,
Wm. Hardie,
Saml. Simpson,
Wm. Henderson,
F. McElvane,
H. Dougherty,
Wm. Brown,
Paul Cox,
Benj. Dean,
Jno. Henniseed,
Matt. McHenery,
Andw. Porter,
Joshua Fanning,
Jno. McDougle,
Christn. Hunner,
Saml. Williams,
Chs. Risk,
Jos. Rice,
Wm. Barnes,
Frans. Faries,
Jno. Taylor,
Jas. Budden,
Wm. Bradford,
Wm. Coates,
Wm. Hall,
Saml. Read,
Jos. Dean,
Thos. Cuthbert, jr.
Frans. Gilbert,
Jas. Morrison,
Geo. Ord,
Chas. Alexander,
Jas. Read,
Jno. Nicholson,
Saml. Shaw,
Jos. Blewer,
Matt. Irwin,
Jno. Cox,
Wm. Sharp,
Jno. Galloway,
Jno. Barnhill,
Law Birnie,
B. Harbeson,
Jerema. Dougan,
Major Proctor,
Capt. Moulder,
Capt. Craig,
Alexr. Henderson,
Robt. Bethell,
Wm. Gilmore,
Jas. McGlure,
Saml. Massey,
Jas. Loughead,
Dd. Hall, jr.
Jas. Little,
Jno. Lad Howell,
Alexr. Boyd,
Wm. Richards,
Jas. Alexander,
Jas. Lang,
Alexr. Power,
Jno. Wigton.

On motion, Resolved una., That Mr. Wm. Imlay, late of New York be requested to attend, agreeable to his own desire on Saturday night last.

Mr. Wm. Imlay appeared and offered reasons to the C^e met, why

he ought not to be accused as an Enemy to his Country, and then withdrew.

Whereupon a Question was put, Is there any evidence ag^t s^d William Imlay, sufficient to accuse him before the Committee of Safety as an Enemy to the liberties of America, and as a person whose going at large would endanger the safety of the United States, or any of them?

Carried in the Negative.

Moved, That Mr. Daniel Smith be requested to attend this meeting immediately & bring his day book of Saturday. Agreed to unanimously.

Capt Barns, Mr. Hennersly was appointed to request Mr. Smith to attend.

Mr. Smith attended & Inform'd that he thinks Jos. Stanbury sung God Save the King, in his house, & a number of persons present bore him Chorus, on the 15th October, 1776, Mr. W. Clifton, Mr. Henley, Mr. Eddy, Mr. Adams, Mr. Connor, Mr. Smith, Capt Forrest, Mr. Jos. Stanbury,* Mr. Jefferies, Mr. Ashton, Mr. Jeyes, Mr. Footman, Mr. Vaux, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Pike.

Moved that Mr. Proctor & Mr. Blewer be desired to request the attendance of Robert Saunders, Mr. Smith's Barr Keeper.

Mr. Jas. Budden being called upon by the Gent. present, informed that Mr. Johnson told him that he was in C^d with Mr. Wm. Smith, Broker & Richd Footman, that one of them gave the King, as a toast, in a Low voice, the other said give it aloud, upon which they both drank it, & Johnson left the C^o.

Moved & agreed to, that each person present do collect & return to this C^o at their next meeting, the names of such persons who are suspected as Tories & unfriendly to the cause of America.

Mr. Blewer & Mr. Proctor returned & reported, that Mr. Smith's Barr Keeper could not be found.

Ordered that the information rec'ed be laid before the Committee of Safety to-morrow morn'g.

Agreed to adjourn to Tuesday evening at 5'clock.

Met agreeably to adjournment, Mr. Wm. Shute in the Chair, Jno. Chaloner Secretary.

Capt Falconer informed the C^o met, that James Prescott was a person suspected of being a tory and an enemy to the United States of America. Mr. Prescott attended, and acknowledged that he thought & had often said, that it was unjustifiable to make opposition to the King of Great Britain in any case whatsoever.

Isaac Atwood attended, and informed that he had often seen Prescott at Mrs. Ball's in C^o with a N^o of others, who frequently sung loyal songs, such as God Save the K^g, &c., drink^g success to the British arms against America; that when any news came to town

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 43, and page 94 and 98 this Vol.

Prescott whent about town to collect the C° that associated there, who rejoiced to hear news of the success of the British forces; that he particularly waited on Mr Attwood, desiring him & Mr. Barrow to attend at Mrs. Ball's, that a Gent° who deserted from Quebeck was to be there.

Moved that Mr. Prescott be carried before the Council of Safety immediately.

Ordered, That M. Porter & Mr. ——— carry Mr. Prescott before the Council of Safety.

Joel Arping attended, Mr. Atwood informed that he rode express for Congress, & Jones, the tavern keeper, told him that he rode express once or twice to Read° with Letters to G. Prescott; that he attended at Mrs. Ball's to drink toasts & sing songs, to the injury of America; that he brot a paper contain° a list of the persons in New York who swore allegiance to K. G.; he acknowledges that he would as leave take up arms on the one side as the other.

Mr. Chambers & Mr. Wilson was ordered to take him before the Council of Safety.

Adjourned to meet at this place to-morrow at 5 o'clock.

Lewis Nicola to Council, 1776.

November 26th, 1776.

Sir,

I herewith send you my account & vouchers, which you'll be pleased to lay before the Council when convenient; I must also request your application for a supply of money, as I have some tradesmen to pay who have compleated their work, & other to supply from time to time.

As these unsettled times may occasion many removes in the barracks, & that most of the rooms are supplied with bedsteads, tables & benches, which cannot be removed into store-rooms, it is necessary to have them fastened up; as locks are attended with much inconveniency, occasioned by the men's loosing the keys & putting the locks out of order, I prefer padlocks, which may be taken into the stores whenever the rooms are occupied. I have hitherto found it impossible to procure the number I want, I propose advertising this day for them in expectation that some smith in the neighbourhood will undertake it.

I am, S^r^,

Your most obed^t^ Servt,

LEWIS NICOLA.

I should have sent in the account Tuesday last, had I not, at the request of Major Proctor & Coll. Cosiusko, attended them to Fort Island, which I did not choose to refuse, tho' my absence was very inconvenient to me.

Be so kind to return me the Receipts for money advanced to John Patterson, as I may want them when I settle with him.

Directed,

To the Secretary of the Honble Council of Safety.

COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO ———, 1776.

In Council of Safety,
Philadelphia, Nov. 28, 1776.

Gentlemen,

The Council of Safety for this State, exceedingly lament the present necessities of the people with respect to salt, and they have used their utmost endeavours to prevent that evil, and not altogether without success, as it is coming in by degrees, yet not in such quantities as to fully supply our wants, yet we are not without hopes that before our navigation is wholly interrupted by the approaching season, enough may arrive to prevent much distress for want of it. The scarcity of Salt has furnished the enemies of America with too good an occasion to create uneasiness in the minds of many who have credited their false insinuations and artful tales, calculated to destroy all confidence in this Council and the persons entrusted with the management of our public affairs, for which purpose they have led them to believe, that large quantities of Salt were kept back from the use of the people and remained stored in this City. The Council can, with the greatest sincerity and truth, declare that they are ignorant of any such practices, and have taken every measure in their power to prevent them, and would so far discourage any thing of the kind, that they would authorise any person or persons to break open any store or warehouse where Salt was so stored and witheld from use, and to seize upon and make sale of the same to the people; we would therefore desire you to make it known to the people, that they may be undeceived, and we cannot but hope that their virtue and fortitude will support them patiently thro' this difficulty, in order to avoid the heavier calamities that will ensue should the British army prevail against us, an army that is waging war, not from sound policy, but only to gratify the avarice, the rage and resentment of an inflexible tyrant, and as we are well informed from New York, whose mercies are cruelties in comparison with your present sufferings, and not distinguishing TORIES from WHIGS.*

* See Minute in Col. Rec., Vol. XI., pp. 16, 20, 22. There are several copies of this, which does not appear on the Minutes, and no direction, probably it was addressed to the several Counties.

Proceedings of Town Meeting at State House, 1776.

At eleven o'clock this forenoon, a very large & general Town Meeting was held at the State House Yard. The Members of General assembly and the Council of Safety were present. Mr. Rittenhouse, Vice President of the Council in the Chair. The intelligence which has been received of the probability of Genl. Howe having it in Contemplation to invade this State, was laid before the Citizens, and they were informed that the Congress had requested the Militia of the City and of several of the Counties, and part of the Militia of each of the other Counties to march into New Jersey. The people expressed their cheerful approbation of the measure by the most unanimous acclamations of Joy ever observed on any occasion, and the Militia are ordered to be reviewed to-morrow at 2 o'clock. General Mifflin addressed his fellow Citizens in a Spirited, animating & affectionate address, which was received by them with marks of approbation, which showed their esteem for, & confidence in the General.*

Indorsed,
Of the Public Meeting, 28 Nov^{r}, 1776.

Committee of Inspection, &c., of Cumberland Co., 1776.

In Committee of Inspection and Observation of Cumberland County at Carlisle, Novr 28th, 1776.

Gentlemen :

The Bearer hereof, Lieu^{t} Philip Anstruther, a british Officer, Prisoner of War, by Reason of his Indisposition is unable to travel in Company with the Other Officers by the way of Reading. It is also necessary that an Officer should settle with the Commissary at Lancaster for the Rations of the Privates station'd there, and Mr. Anstruther having requested the Indulgence of this Committee to travel by the Way of Philadelphia, to Consult Physicians there, We have for the foregoing Reasons thought proper to grant his Request, on his promise to wait on the Honble the Council of Safety, or some member of it, as soon as he should reach Philad^{a}; Which we hope the Board will approve of, as they can forward him as they think best. The Other Gentlemen, their Servants, their Servants' Wives, and their Bagge in Waggons, will set out this Afternoon or to morrow Morning, by the way of Reading & Trenton to the nearest Camp of the United States in Jersey, under the Escort of Leu^{t} Coll. John Creigh & Mr Ephraim Steel, two of our Members, who will

* See Marshall's Remembrancer, p. 119.

wait of you on their Return. We do not send to Fort Lee (because We are informed it is evacuted by our People), nor do we Adress any Letter to General Green, but to the General Officer who may command at any Camp of the United States nearest to Trenton. We are, Gentlemen, Your most obedient, Humble Servants.

Signed by Order of the Committee,

GEO. STEVENSON, Chairman.

Directed.

The Honble the Council of Safety of the State of Pensylvania, at Philad^a.

By Lieut. Anstruther.

Lewis Nicola to Secretary of Council, 1776.

November 29th, 1776.

Sir:

I beg the favour of you to inform the Council that Capt Doyle, who received ten Bed cases from the Quarter Master of the German Battallion at the time that he was ordered to do duty with said Battalion, returned but five of them, & that on vis'ing the rooms they occupied, I find a bedstead without its bottom. I attended twice at the barracks yesterday to receive the Utencils, without its being in my power to get them delivered up. The pots & buckets, except such as are still used by some sick men, were left in the barrack yard.

I am, S^r,

Your most obed^t Servt,

LEWIS NICOLA.

Directed.

To the Sec^ty of the Honble Council.

Dr. Thomas Bond to ———, 1776.

My dear Sir:

Lest the family should be alarmed for want of Horses to move off if they should chuse so to do, I have sent home my Carriage Horses. I Yesterday left Elizabeth Town between 1 & 2 o'clock, & think I was the last Man belonging to the Army left, but my good old friend General Mercer. I was very much perplexed in moving my Sick; could scarcely get Waggons to move them to a Boat to

Come here; they are not yet Arrived & have been left exposed to the Weather & Enemy. The Distress of this Country is Amazing, & our Army in bad Condition to withstand the Pursuers. I cannot hear of their Advancing further as yet than Newark; all our Army will be here this day, & small & weak it is. I wait for the arrival of my Sick & Gen. Washington; I propose Carrying Mine to New Castle on the Delaware; whether the General will permit or no I yet cannot learn; unless the Pennsylvanians will fight & Come & meet the Enemy for that purpose, our all is gone. I am amazed at the Conduct of these Middle Colonies. I shall be with you soon; I will not be taken if Industry & a good look out will save me. My Love to every Body.

Yours most affec'y,

THOS. BOND.

Friday, 29 Nov., 1776. Brunswick.

Since Writing the above, I have leave to carry my Sick where I think proper, & have therefore determin'd to proceed with them to Philadelphia. I therefore request you will direct the Bearer, John Long, in my employ, to wait upon General Mifflin, & request him to Issue Orders for the Reception of 40 Sick, in some convenient place near the Town, if to be had. I should be obliged to you to consult Genl. Mifflin upon a proposal I have made of Instituting Hospitals for the Sick in Darby, Chester, Marcus Hook, Wilmington, & Newcastle. I think the Water Carriage from Trenton to those Places would save much Carting, & this plan much better than one now propos'd, of sending the Sick to East Town, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Reading, &c. From what I can gather to Day, I think our Army mean to make a stand here, though I have had the most troublesome & distressing Day I ever New, & therefore have seen no great Folk from whom I could learn their Intentions.

T. B.

P. S.—If the Bearer can be of any use to the Family, make use of him 'till I come home.

Council of Safety of Kent Co., 1776.

November the 30th, 1776.

A Quorum of That branch of the Council of Safety belonging to Kent County appointed by the General Assembly of this State at their last Setting met—

The Council went into a choice of a Chairman, and Genl. Rodney was chosen Nem. Con.

The Council taking into their Consideration the great scarcity of

Salt within this County, and the distress that must be occasioned to the Inhabitants thereof unless a speedy Supply of that Necessary Article be Obtained,

Resolved, That this Council will apply to the Committee of Safety of the State of Pennsylvania for as much Salt as can be Obtained from them for the Inhabitants of this County.

Resolved, That the Chairman of this Council write a Letter to the said Committee of Safety of Pennsylvania for that purpose, and inclose therein a copy of these Resolutions.

Resolved, That the Trustee of the General Loan Office for the County of Kent pay the Amount of the Salt that may be obtained as aforesaid, on the draught of the Chairman of Committee of Safety of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That the same Salt when obtained shall be distributed among the Inhabitants of this County who are not already provided, in equal portions according to the quantity Obtained, the portions to be assertained by this Council when the whole quantity is known. Every person to whom such portion is Delivered paying the money at the time of delivery, and that no more than the prime Cost shall be demanded, Except the Necessary Expense arising thereon, to be also Ascertained by Council.

A True Copy from the Minutes of Council.

CÆSAR RODNEY, Chairm^n.

Maj. Ennion Williams to Owen Biddle, 1776.

Brunswick, Nov'm^r 30th, 1776.

Sir:

You mention to your Brother (and my worthy Friend) that Clothing for the Regiment is now ready. I have acquainted Lord Sterling, in whose Brigade our Reg^t is, and he directs that they remain in Philad^a until further orders.

The Enemy are advancing by slow and secure movements, but as soon as our Pen^a & Jersey Militia join us, I hope to convince them that we can & will disperse them.

I am, with the greatest Regard,

Sir, Your humble Servant,

ENNION WILLIAMS.

Directed.

Owen Biddle, Esquire, To Care of Mr. Reisberg, Philadelphia.

Council of Safety to Citizens, 1776.

In Council of Safety,
Philad^a, 30th Nov., 1776.

It is no less necessary than painful that the present movements of General Howe's Army requires we should apprize the inhabitants of this City, who wish to avoid the insults and oppression of a licentious Soldiery, that they prepare for removing their Wifes & Children and valuable effects on a short warning to some place of security.

Resolutions of Council of Safety, 1776.

In Council of Safety.

Philadelphia, December 1st, 1776.

Resolved,

That each man who shall on or before Wednesday next, march from the city and liberties of Philadelphia, to join General Washington, shall receive (over and besides his month's pay advance,) a Bounty of ten dollars, to be paid him by the Col. of his respective Battalion.

That each man who shall, on or before Saturday next, march from the counties of Philadelphia & Chester, to join General Washington, shall receive (over and beyond his months' pay advance) a Bounty of ten Dollars, to be paid him by the Col. of his respective Battalion.

That each man who shall, on or before Wednesday, the 11th of this month, march to join General Washington from the Counties of Lancaster, York, Cumberland, Berks & Northampton, shall receive (over & besides his month's pay advance,) a Bounty of ten dollars, to be paid him by the Col. of his respective Battalion.

That each man who shall, on or before the 18th of this month, march from the Counties of Northumberland, Bedford & Westmoreland, to join General Washington, shall receive (over & besides his month's pay advance,) a Bounty of ten dollars, to be paid him by the Collonel of his respective Battalion.

That the first 50 men in one company, who shall join General Washington from the city of Philadelphia, and the first 50 men in one Company from each of the Counties of this State respectively, shall receive ten dollars additional bounty, to be paid on their arrival at the Camp, and that the second 50 men from the City and from each County respectively, shall receive the Bounty of five dollars each, to be paid them on their arrival at the Camp.

That the Officers of the Battalions of the City and of each county respectively, who shall first march two hundred men shall receive a bounty proportioned to the County ordered to be paid to the first 50 men who shall arrive at the Camp, according to the pay of each officer respectively.

Council of Safety to Rev. ——, 1776.

In Council of Safety, Dec'r 1st, 1777.

Rev'd Sir,

Your Country greatly depends on the Encouragement which you give to your People. We doubt neither of your Virtue, Patriotism nor readiness to contribute all in your Power to animate them in the cause, and induce them to march to the Assistance of General Washington. If you, or any of your Brethren would offer to go as Chaplain to the Militia, it would have an exceeding good effect. The Council of Safety, solicitous for the event of the present Campain, entreat you to exert all your well known Influence & Abilities in the service of your Country.

By Order of Council.*

Resolution of Council of Safety, 1776.

In Council of Safety.

Philad'a, Dec'r 2d, 1776.

Order,

That no Person be admitted to pass the River Delaware without a pass from this Board.

By Order of Council.†

* This seems to have been addressed to the Clergy generally, as there are several copies.

† Not on Minutes.

Orders to Commodore Seymour, 1776.

In Council of Safety.

Philad'a, 2d Decem^r, 1776.

Sir,

You are hereby ordered to have all the Galleys immediately up to Philadelphia. The two w'ch are to remain are to be stationed at the Cheveaux du frize at Fort Island.

By order of Council.

DAV'D RITTENHOUSE, V. P.

Directed,

To Commodore Seymour.

Resolutions of Real Whigs, 1776.

In Council of Safety.

Phila'a, Decr 2d, 1776.

The following is an Extract from a Number of Resolves entered into, "at a meeting of Real Whigs, met at the Philadelphia Society Hall, December 1st, 1776. Jonathan B. Smith, Chairman," and delivered into the Council of Safety. Viz. :

Resolved,

That it be recommended to the Council of Safety, that in the present emergency and untill a Militia Law be enacted, every Person between the age of sixteen and fifty years, be ordered out under Arms for the defence of this State.

Resolved,

"That it be recommended that all Persons &c., be ordered out except those who from their Religious denominations are uniformly known to be conscienciously scrupulous against bearing Arms in any case whatsoever, and that those pay as follows for this exemption, Five Shillings in the pound agreeable to the last Assessment of their Estate, Provided said Tax will amount to Five pounds, and if said tax will not amount to Five pounds, that then the said sum of Five pounds be levied on them, and that the said Tax be levied on all Estates of Persons who do not go out whatever, unless detained in the Public Service of this State or of the United States, and that the said Tax be immediately collected and applied

to the use of the Sick and wounded Associators and the Families of the Associators."

Resolved in Council, That the two foregoing Resolves be referred to the General Assembley of this State.

By Order of Council.

Resolutions of Council of Safety, 1776.

In Council of Safety.

Philadelphia, Dec'r 2, 1776.

Resolved,

That Capt. Huston immediately proceed up the River Delaware, as far as Trenton, and remove all the river Craft, Vessels & Boats from the Jersey, to Pennsylvania side of Delaware, in order to prevent their becoming serviceable to the enemy in their attempts to cross said River.

By order of Council.

Passed.

Council of Safety to ——, 1776.

In Council of Safety.

Philad'a, Dec' 2, 1776.

The Army under General Howe, has taken possession of Brunswick. General Washington, not having a sufficient number of men to oppose the enemy, is obliged to retreat before him.

Vigor & Spirit alone will save us—there is no time to be spent in words—exert yourselves like Freemen.

Col. Wm. Cooke to Council of Safety, 1776.

Gentlemen,

I received 1st Instant an express from the Board of War, ordering me to march with my Battallion to Brunswick, with all possible expedition; it is a very unfortunate circumstance, as all my Soldiers are unprovided with Guns, Cloaths, Blankets, &c., but hope the Coun' of Safety or Board of War will provide these things. I expect to begin my march the Tenth or Eleventh Inst., and not before, as

most of my Officers are recruiting at different places a great distance from this. Since my last, I have rec'd from Capt. Nich's Miller, two thousand Dollars, which was soon expended, as the officers have been very successful in recruiting, four Capt'ns have their Companys near full. I have consulted with some of my Officers, and it is our opinion that Ten Thousand Dollars at least is immediately wanting, as several sums of money has been borrowed, and many of the Soldiers have not received their full bounty, and cannot possibly march untill they receive it and their Subeistance money; these reasons will be sufficient to give no delay in sending this sum. Lieut. Henderson & Boyd, waits on you with this letter, to whom I desire the money to be given, they will give you any further information necessary.

I am, Gentlemen,

your most Obed't humble Serv't,

WILLIAM COOKE,

Col. 12th Reg't Penn. Reg's.

Northumberland, 2d Decem'r, 1776.

Directed,

To the Hon. the Council of Safety of the State of Pennsylvania.

JOHN WEITZEL TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1776.

Sunbury, Decr 2d, 1776.

Sir,

I am sorry to inform you that I have not as yet any hemp or of the other articles that the Council desired me to purchase; hemp is very plenty in this County, but there is scarcely any broke, the farmers here are just done putting in their fall grain, so that they have not had time to work at their hemp, and hands are not to be had here for any price. I expect to get the greatest part of what you ordered me to buy between this and Christmas. I have rode through the County, advanced Money to numbers, & have done every thing in my Power since I came home from Philad'a, to execute your orders, but could not get it done. Blankets and Woolen Cloths are not to be had here, Linens have been and are yet very scarce, but I expect will be very plenty soon; the Women and Weavers are all closely employed. The bearer hereof, Mr. Robert McBride, goes down on purpose to apply for a Lieutenancy in the service of the United States, I therefore take the Liberty to recommend him as a

man of Spirit and resolution, and have not the least doubt but he will make a good Officer, he served during the Last War.

I am,

Your most Obed^t Servt,

JOHN WEITZEL.

Directed.

To Thomas Wharton, Junr, Esqr, President to the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

DAVID POTTER TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1776.

Bridge Town, 2d Decem^r, 1776.

Sir,

This serves to Inform you that the scarcity of Salt in this place occasions a much greater Quantity of Poark for sale than otherwise would have been, therefore requests to know whether my Orders may not be inlarged, so far as to Bulk Poark to the Quantity of what Salt I now have received waighting to Barrell, till I get a few Bushills more this winter, or by the first Shallops in the Spring, and must further request you to give the Bearer, my Father, an order to receive £400, for which have sent a person up to Town, as Poark is now coming in fast, & am,

Sir, your Very Hum'le Serv't,

DAVID POTTER.

Directed.

To the Honourable the President of the Council of Safety, Philadelphia.

JONA. MIFFLIN TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1776.

Trenton, Dec'r 3d, 1776.

Sir,

By order of his Honor, General Putnam, I now inform you that before the Receipt of your Letter, he had made all the Boards at Trenton Landing into Rafts, and a Party of men are ordered up the

River to make the same of all the Boards, and Scantling that are on or near the Banks.

I am, Sir,

Your very h'ble Serv't,

JONA'N MIFFLIN.

Directed,

Thomas Wharton, Esq., President of the Committee of Safety, Philada.

Col. Joseph Wood to Council of Safety, 1776.

Ticonderoga, Dec'r 4th, 1776.

Sir,

I received yours as President of the Council of Safety, by Captain Fishburne, complaining that the Soldiers was not paid, I cannot answer for any neglect of that Sort, before I had the Reg^t, I very well know that all the sick as discharged from the Gen. Hospital by the Doctors, as unfit for service, said to be by Gen'l Gates' orders, which the General positively denies; I have ordered an Advertisement in the Papers, setting forth the Mistake of their being discharged, and that they shall be paid all that's due them; is it not very extraordinary that Messrs. Mease & Caldwell, will not let us know what the Soldiers is to pay for their Clothes, &c., and that one half of the wages is stopped, now almost for a year, how is it possible that the men should have justice done them, when the pay is withheld by all the Paymasters, by Mease & Caldwell's orders—even the half pay that's received is very lately for want of Cash; Pray now who is in fault, we have enough to answer for of our own Neglect, but if the Soldiers have just cause of Complaint, which I aver they have, let the Saddle be put on the Horse it belongs to, Fair play is a Juel.

For all this Army at this place, which did consist of 12 or 13 thousand men, sick and well, no more than nine hundred pair of shoes have been sent; one third part at least of the poor wretches is now barefooted, and in this condition obliged to do duty, this is shocking to humanity, it cannot be viewed in any milder Light than black Murder, the poor Creatures, is now what's left alive, lying on the cold ground in poor thin Tents, and some none at all, and many down with the pleurisies, no Barracks, no Hospital to go in, the Barracks is at Saratoga, if you was here your Heart would melt. I paid a visit to the sick yesterday, in a small House called an Hospital, the first object that presented my eyes, one man lying dead at

the door, the inside two more laying dead, two living lying between them, the living with the dead, had so laid for four and twenty hours—I went no further, this was too much to see, and too much to feel, for a Heart with the least tincture of Humanity.

I am, Sir,

your most obed't

H'ble Serv't,

JOS. WOOD.

N. B.—At present we have not one pair of Shoes or one Blanket in the store.

A true Copy of a Letter to the Council of Safety, from Col. Jos. Wood.

Col. Anthony Wayne to Council of Safety, 1776.

Ticonderoga, 4th Dec'r, 1776.

Gentlemen,

Yours of the eighth October I received, and note the Contents. I have made strict enquiry concerning the supposed fraud you mention and find no just foundation for a charge of that nature; if any of the Soldiers are gone home without their pay, it was not the officers who were to blame. I believe there was some discharged the Service contrary to orders, by the Directors of the General Hospital at Fort George—these were not paid off.

But least that you should still conclude that it was the Officer's Fault, I am to inform you that our Regiment never had it not in their Power to pay the men monthly; add to this one half of their Wages is stopped by order of Congress, amounting to £14, for the Payment of not more than 7 or £8, here there may be some ground of complaint, altho' none where it is so liberally bestowed.

You may rest assured that I do make it my study to see justice done to the Soldiers, I could wish equal care had been taken in every Department; the wretched condition they are now in for want of almost every necessary and convenience of Life, except Flour and bad Beef, is shocking to Humanity, and beggars all Description. We have neither Beds nor Bedding for our sick to lay on or under, other than their own thin wretched Cloathing, no Medicine or Regimen suitable for them, the Dead and Dying laying mingled together in

our Hospital, or rather House of Carnage, is no uncommon sight, these are objects truly worthy your notice, as well as of

Your most obed't H'ble Servant,

ANT'Y WAYNE.

A true Copy of a Letter from Col. Anthony Wayne, to the Council of Safety.

Indorsed,

Copy of a Letters from Col. Anth'y Wayne, dated Dec'r 4, and from Col. Wood, of same date, from Ticonderoga, the Original being sent to Congress, a copy of the Letter that Inclosed them, is herewith.

Thos. Bond to Council, 1776.

Gentlemen,

In my son's letter laid before you, he requests Provision may be made for 40 sick Persons, who are to be brought from his Hospital to this city, and desires it may be considered whether it would not be most expedient for all the Military Hospitals to be fixed as near as possible to Water Carriage.

With respect to the immediate Provision he mentions for the sick, it appears to me that the Pennsylvania Bettering House & Provincial Hospitals may accomodate them and many more without the least Infringements on the original Design of those Institutions, by only removing & excluding at this Time such sick as do not absolutely require the particular conveniences of those Houses. With respect to Water Portage Military Hospitals particularly require it, because the Joltings of Horse-Carriages would greatly aggravate the Violences of fractured & splintered Bones from Gun-Shot Wounds.

A very Short Reflection on the nature and use of Military Hospitals at this time must convince you that a Strict attention to them is of the utmost Importance to the distressed, & to the Community; I therefore take the Liberty of advising that some able, judicious & experienc'd Person or Persons may, in the Character of Physician & Surgeon to the Pennsylvania Troops, and Director General of the Military Hospitals in this State, be impowered to fix on proper Places for opening and supplying them with Assistance, Nurses, & all other Conveniences, which Art or Humanity requires for their relief and support. That the Physicians General and their mates shall be obliged to attend all such poor wounded or sick Soldiers, as shall choose to remain in their own Habitations That the Physician

shall give particular Directions for all the medicines & instruments in the Hospitals & Surgeon's Chests, & make out general Forms of Prescription, agreeable to the Custom of the best regulated Armies in Europe, which would not only be a real advantage to the sick, but a great Saving of Expence at this Time, when foreign Drugs are scarce & dear. And lastly, that the Physicians shall be particularly enjoined to take every necessary Precaution against the Spreading of contagious Diseases amongst the Inhabitants.

When I see so many of my Friends and valuable fellow-citizens, exposing themselves to the Horrors of War, I think it my indispensable Duty to make them a tender of the best Services in my Power, upon condition that I can have the joint assistance of my Son in the great undertaking, who, I am certain, you will find on Enquiry, has already distinguished himself in this Department. As I am told many of the sick are near the city, the sooner this matter is concluded on, the better. I will do myself the pleasure to wait on you soon, & I am,

Gentlemen,

Your most respectful,

h'ble Servant,

TH. BOND.

Dec. 4th, 1776.

Directed,

To the Honorable the Council of Safety.

Lewis Nicola to Council of Safety, 1776.

December 4th, 1776.

Sir,

I beg the favour you will inform the Council that agreeable to the notice given I met a number of the inhabitants at two o'Clock yesterday afternoon, when about 130 persons gave in their names, and more since, and this morning chose their Officers as specified in the inclosed return.

In order to make the service as easy to the inhabitants as possible, I have divided to city & suburbs into three districts, each of which is to take the Guards most convenient to them.

Northern District. North side of Arch street & northward. Guards—The two Powder Magazines.

Middle District. South side of Arch street to the Drawbridge. Guards—State House & New Goal.

Southern District. From the Drawbridge southward. Guards—Frigates & Faggots.

I suppose the Council will think a city guard necessary at least by night to mount in the courthouse, and consist of

The Officers of the city guards to patrole in their turn every night through different parts of the city,

The Town major to visit the guards frequently and keep all persons to their duty, also from time to time to patrole the city.

The patroles to take up all persons they find unlawfully employed or behaving in a riotous manner.

If the patroles see any number of persons assembled whom they have reasonable grounds to suspect are combining any thing detrimental to the public, they must secure them & make a report thereof in the morning to the President of the Hon'ble Council of Safety.

A sufficient number of arms & ammunition to be left at each guard house, which the new guard is daily to take charge & make use of. The officer commanding each guard is to take care the ammunition is not embezeled or wasted.

The arms, if not discharged on service, to be new loaded once in fourteen days, but new primed every day.

The City Guard to be mounted by the Districts in their turns.

The above regulations I beg leave to offer to the Council for their approbation or alterations. I have received the return of the officers only for one district, shall to-morrow give in a return of the whole.

I am, Sr,

Your most obedt Servant,

LEWIS NICOLA.

I believe two Subalterns will be sufficient for the city Guard, with one Serjeant, one Corporal & thirty men.

Directed,

To the Secretary of the Hon'ble Council of Safety.

John Read to President of Council, 1776.

Fort Island, 4th Decemr, 1776.

Sir,

This afternoon I received Orders from the Council of Safety not to purchas any more wood, I shall not until further orders. I received the like orders from Mr. Vice President Rittenhous, with directions to send a return, which I did, and if my messenger has not deceived me, Mr. Rittenhouse must have received it on Monday.

The bearer is just setting out or would forme a 2d return, to send with this, but shall as soon as possible for fear of a Miscarrage, send a particular account of what has been received, consumed and the remains in store to the 28th November, the day I made an actual survey of the wood on hand.

I am, Sir,

Your most Obedient,

Humble Servt,

JOHN READ.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, jur, Esq., President to the Hon. Council of Safety for the State of Pennsilvania. Philadelphia.

Lewis Nicola to Council of Safety, 1776.

December 5th, 1776.

Sir,

I received the Council's orders for a return of the persons enrolled for the City Guard. The lists I took at the first meeting I gave the officers of the different Districts, & and have not yet received the returns of the different companies, but shall if possible make a return to the Council this afternoon. I suppose the return is wanted to known if any are fit to go to camp, I suspect several of them are, but could not distinguish them as the crowd was so great and pressed on me, to prevent it as far as was in my power, I gave notice that any person's name being on my list would not excuse him from service if judged capable.

I am, Sr,

Your most obedt servt,

LEWIS NICOLA.

Directed,

To the Secretary of the Hon'ble Council of Safety.

Æneas Mackay to Board of War, 1776.

Kittanning, the 5th December, 1776.

Sir:

I last night received your order from the Honourable the Board of War, in consequence of which I have this day issued the necessary orders, & shall March with all possible dispatch to the place directed.

I beg leave to inform you at the same time, that scarcity of Provision & other disagreeable circumstances obliged me to permit a number of the men to go to particular Stations to be supplied, but have directed a general rendezvous on the 15th Inst., at a proper place, and from thence shall proceed as ordered.

As I won'd not choose that the Battalion should labour under every disadvantage when at Brunswick, being now in need of every thing, I shall be obliged to make Philadelphia my Rout, in order to be supplied. I therefore hope the proper Provision will be made of Regimental Camp-Kittles & Arms, as mentioned to Col. Wilson, & Captn Boyd.

ÆN'S MACKAY,
C. 8th R. P. F.

Directed,

On the Service of the United States. Richard Peters, Esq., Secretary of the Board of War. Philadelphia.

Ludwig Kuhn to Council of Safety, 1776.

To the Honourable the Council of Safety:

Gentlemen,

According to your Resolve on Decr the 3d, a Company of horse is to be raised, But the Terms seems something misstical; Therefore, I humbly presume to make the following Proposals, viz., that Each man shall receive the Sum of 20 Dollars Bounty, and 3 pound pay p^r month, likewise that each man shall be ingaged dureing the War. I am well assured that I can have a Company in a short Time of expearianced Germans on these Terms, They being furnished Each with a Horse, two Pistols, and a broad Sword at the publick expence, and that a proper Sum of Money should be put into some person's hands immediately, so that the Business should not be retarded.

LUDWIG KUHN.

Philadelphia, Decemb^r 6th, 1776.

Directed,

To the Honourable the Council of Safety for the State of Pennsylvania.

Col. Henry Hill to ———, 1776.

Roxborough, 6th Decr, 1776.

Sir,

The Council having honor'd me with repeated orders & intelligence from the 24th to the 30th past, I consulted the officers of my Battalion on Monday, & met as many people as could be collected on Wednesday.

Altho' some officers join'd their best endeavours to produce a desirable effect, others were utterly deficient, & the men could be brought to no good resolution.

Their objections can never be silenced but by a more established & equitable militia law, for the cry is, "all or none." Yet I must think these unmanageable fellows would fight if the Enemy was at hand.

I shall not trouble you, Sir, with a detail of all the steps taken in the line of my duty on this occasion, but I hope they would appear neither more nor less deliberate than my materials & and the noblest cause demand of Sir,

Your most obedt humble Servt,

HENRY HILL,
Colo 4th P. B. C.

J. Stansbury to Council of Safety, 1776.

New Jail, 6th Decemr, 1776.

Gentlemen,

I beg leave to acquaint you, that on Saturday Evening last I was made prisoner in my dwelling-house by some armed men, who took me before a number of Persons, whose stile or authority I was entirely ignorant of, to answer for my behaviour at the City Tavern on the 15th of October last,* touching which I had before been examined & dismissed by your Board.

I informed them of that circumstance, & delivered the certified Copy of my affirmation, which was read to them by their Clerk. Notwithstanding this, they again questioned me, whether I sung God Save the King or joined in the Chorus? both which I answered in the negative. They then order'd me to Jail, (without assigning any reason or giving me a mittimus,) where I have lain these five days in most irksome confinement. Permit me to observe, I expected from the qualification I had taken before you, and from my quiet &

* See page 73–4.

inoffensive demeanor, that I should, unquestionably, have been protected in my Liberty & Property by the present Government, or at least, that no injury of this kind would have been offered me, unless some imprudence on my part should have given just occasion for it. It is from your Justice I expect relief from my present Confinement, and I flatter myself I shall want no other advocate at your board to attain it, than the bare representation of Facts above recited.

I am, Gentlemen,

With due regard & Esteem,

Your most obed^t humb^e Se^t,

J. STANSBURY.*

Directed,

To the President, Vice President, or Gentlemen of the Council of Safety. Present.

GEN. CADWALADER TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1776.

Head Quarters, Trenton Ferry, Bucks,
8th Dec^r, 1776.

Gent^n,

His Excel^y, General Washington, desires me to request that you will immediately dispatch a Party of men from Philad^a to cut down & destroy the two Bridges on the Burlington Road, one on Pensawkin & the other on Cooper's Creek, as he is apprehensive the Enemy intend to pass to Philad^a by that Rout. Let me beg of you, in my own name, that you will alarm the whole Country, South & West, nothing but their assistance can save us!

I am, Gent.,

with great respect,

Your most ob^t h'ble Servt,

JOHN CADWALADER.†

Directed,

To the Honorable the Council of Safety for the State of Pennsylv^a. Capt. Watkins.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 43.

† See Minutes Council of Safety, Vol II., p. 296. See Colonial Records, Vol. XI., p. 39.

Orders of Lewis Nicola, Town Major, 1776.

Orders issued the 6th, 7th, & 8th March, 1776.

December 6th. Parole Council of Safety.

The Serjeant of the New Goal Guard to report to the Town Major what prisoners are put in.

The Captains of the middle District having reported to the Town Major that they could not muster more than 25 men for each company, & that they must mount daily 41 men, officers included, the Captains are desired to take an account of all the inhabitants of said District capable of doing city duty, but unfit for the field, & enrole them. Those refusing to serve to be reported to the the Town Major, that he may make a return thereof to the Council of Safety.

Each District is to form itself into two companies; Every company to consist of 1 captain, 1 first lieutenant, 1 second lieutenant, 1 ensign, four serjeants, four corporals & 80 men. One serjeant of each district to act as serjeant major. One drummer is allowed to each district.

The officers and men not on duty to be ready to turn out when called for, or the drum beats to arms, for which purpose they are to be allowed every day continental pay, without rations.

The officers are to form their companies as soon as possible, & when compleated, to inform the Town Major thereof, that he may muster them.

When any thing extraordinary happens, the officer or serjeant commanding the guard to make a report thereof to the Town Major.

December 7th, 1776. Parole Handcock.

The new Goal guard to be reduced to 1 serjeant & 1 corporal & 12 men.

The four men taken from the new Goal guard to be added to the State-house guard, which must be reinforced to 1 subaltern, one serjeant, 1 corporal & 30 men, & must post two more centries, one at the east & one at the west end of the new Goal, who are not to permit any one to converse with the prisoners, or give them any thing through the windows.

December 8th, 1776. Parole Washington.

The officers & serjeants of the guard are not to take charge of any prisoners without knowing by whom confined & for what offence.

A corporal & 6 men to parade to-morrow morning, at 7 o'clock, under the court-house, to escort a party of English soldiers to Newtown in Bucks county. The northern district to furnish the corporal, and each of the six companies one man.

The sentries posted in the streets are not to molest any of the inhabitants passing quietly about their lawful business, neither are

they to permit any person to come within reach of their arms, but oblige them to pass at a proper distance. If any number of persons are seen together in the night, the sentries must give notice thereof to the guard, the officer of which must enquire into the cause of their assembling.

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Joseph Hart to Council of Safety, 1776.

To the honorable the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen,

This morning I signed two Certificates of the Numbers of Associators belonging to the Companies of Capt. Jamison & Capt. Wier, with the number of those who were marched to Trenton, as also (by a N. B.) with 50 others who have this day engaged to march as soon as they can possibly be equiped. The other Companies I fear, will not turn out so well. at least they are not so forward; but I am doing what I can to get them out. I am apprehensive that the Provision made for them at the Camp will not answer the Season; as it will be impossible for them to lie in the open Field, without Tents or Cover.

I should have gladly complied with your Request concerning the Number & Equipment of the Battalion, but cannot yet procure proper Returns from the Captains for that purpose.

I am Gentlemen,
with due Respect,
your most obedient,
& humble Servant,
JOSEPH HART.

Sunday, Dec. 8th, 1776

Directed,
To the President of the Council of Safety.

Major Thos. Proctor to Council of Safety, 1776.

Sir,

I have ordered all the regular soldiers that were taken Prisoners and enter'd with me, to be taken to Goal, as I fear'd future Consequences that might attend their staying at this place in case of an Invasion, believing from what I have seen and heard, that Correspondence is held up between Ld. How, and them, by means of Mrs.

White, wife of one of my People. I have given Capt. Courtnay, orders to seize her and her papers, and commit her to confinement till you are pleased to hear the matter alleged against her.

I hope the Council will pardon my inadvertency in first inlisting them, as I shall forbid myself such pleasure as Expected to have had from their services, in future.

Two Flatts is imediately wanted to carry stone from here to the piers, as there is little security for the Chain and Trunk, being quite open without they are covered with stone, also more men, if Possible to be had.

Yours most respectfully,

THOS. PROCTOR.

Fort Island, Dec. 8th, 1776.

Directed,

To the President of the Hon'ble Councill of Safety,
Philadelphia.

JOSEPH STANSBURY TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1776.

New Jail, 10 Decem^r, 1776.

Gentlemen:

I think myself cruelly treated in being confined to this Jail without the least shadow of Reason whatever. My situation is singular, and differs from that of every Gentleman confined within these walls, not one of them in the same predicament with myself. I have been already heard, and discharged by ye board; if I was before considered as a dangerous Person, the qualification I then took, effectually secures my future conduct, for I will believe, (in justice to my own character,) none of your body can even imagine I would violate such a sacred Obligation.

If the People met at the Philosophical Society's Hall, had adduced any new matter against me, there would have been some pretext for keeping me so long separated from my distressed Family, because in that case, a fresh hearing might be thought necessary. Yet, I asked the Council if there were any other charges against me & was answered No, and thence concluded I had given full satisfaction.

I should have thought your feelings for an injured fellow Citizen wantonly deprived of his Liberty, (in violation & defiance of the Bill of Rights, and every authentic declaration held up to the People)—a regard to your own consequence, wounded by their unjust usurpation of your rights—and the simpleness of the case laid be-

fore you in my letter of Fryday last,* would have produced a more speedy answer in my favour. I really thought it afforded You a fair Opportunity of doing yourselves Justice in redressing my private & malice levelled injuries.

However, Gentlemen, your time may be taken up with matters of the last importance to Freedom, it surely must claim an eminent rank even among such considerations, to protect and redress an injur'd Citizen, & give a timely check to such arbitrary, unlawfull, & unprecedented Proceedings as I suffer by; for if these are tolerated there will be no security to Rank or Honesty, nor difference left betwixt Freedom & the most abject Slavery.

Hoping you will please to consider what is here offer'd as the heartfelt effusions of a much slander'd, neglected, & injured man, expecting redress from You as Guardians of the Rights of the People,

I remain,

Gentlemen,

Your most obed^t^,

humble Servt,

J. STANSBURY.

Council of Safety to ——, 1776.

In Council of Safety.

Philadelphia, Dec'r 11th, 1776.

Sir,

The present situation of this State makes it necessary to remove all the State Prisoners from this City, and the H'ble Board of War, has advised us to send part to your care, to dispose of them in such place of confinement as you may think proper. In consequence of which, we have sent you; a list of their names you have annexed. They have been very active.

Henry Fisher to Council of Safety, 1776.

Lewes, December 11th, 1776.

Gentlemen,

Last Evening came in and Achor'd in our Road the Roebuck and a Sloop of War, and Remain here still; if they should move upwards I shall give the General Alarm by Water and Land; when the ships came in they had the wind to the Eastward, and might have

* See pages 74, 94, 106, also, Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 43.

fetch'd up the Bay if they where inclin'd so to Do. Having no more to add I Remain,

Your Most Humble Servant
to Command,
HENRY FISHER.

Directed,
To the Honarable the Counsel of Safety, in Philadelphia.
Pr Express.

This Express Left Lewis at 9 o'clock in the morning, on the 11th instant.

H. FISHER.

Came to Cedar Creek at 11 o'clock,

THOS. EVANS.

Caim to Dover, halph after four o'clock,

F. BATTELL.

Came to Cantwell's Bridge, half after Eleaven o'clock,

MAT'W DELANY.

Come to Willmington fiftey minets past four o'Clock.

JAS. CHANDLER.

Came to Chester to Wm. Kerlin, 12 De'br, half after 7 o'clock.

WM. KERLIN.

HENRY FISHER TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1776.

To the Honorable the Committy of Safety of the City of Philadel-Phia.

Gentlemen,

This day Davis Bevan & Benj. Canby, were both landed on our Beach by a Flag from the Rhoabuck Man of War, Capt. Hammon Comander, with whose Officers I had a conference, who have related to me that there is now on board, Thirty-eight Prisoners, who they have brought here for Exchange, agreeable to sund'e Letters from our two Commanding opponents. These two above mentioned, are both on parole, one of which (Davis Bevan) I refer you for further Particulars, by whom you may be acquainted with the sufferings of many of our Brethren, who at this time labour under Distresses worthy of your immediate attention for their relief; Therefore I beg you may, as you will be acquainted by Mr. Bevan, represent the

matter to Congress, that they may take the same into consideration for their Discharge. We are at this time on our guard, that no boats shall Land without a Flag, the consequence of which you may depend of being acquainted w'h immediately; the two Capes and to the Southward are Lin'd w'h Men of War, and I am of oppinion will be till the weather will not allow them on our Coast. I am, Gentlemen, with offers of Service,

Your very hum'e Serv't,

HENRY FISHER.

December 11th, 1776.

N. B.—As the Council of Safety were now setting at Dover and I being at this time the only Commanding Officer here, refer all the above to your Notice.

H. F.

Directed.

To the Honble the Council of Safety of the City of Philadelphia.

JOHN CONNOLLY TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1776.

Sir,

Amidst the multiplicity of your concerns, permit me to demand your attention for a moment. Engaged as I have been in this unhappy national contest, it has been my misfortune, to have experienced a very long and rigorous confinement, highly aggravated by constant sickness, the effects of this complicated distress, has reduced me to the lowest condition, and it may be thought expedient, to remove me from hence, indiscriminately with other sufferers, to partake with them the inclemency of some Frontier Jail, without any regard to my very infirm state. I have taken the liberty to request your interposition in my favor, supposing it may be in the line of your Department, to alleviate the afflictions of those who are your Prisoners, and at your disposal. As I require nothing inconsistent with your own safety, I flatter myself you will be pleased to give such directions with regard to me, as may be correspondent with the feelings of humanity.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most Obed't Serv't,

JNO. CONNOLLY.*

Decemb'r 11th, 1776.

Directed.

Thomas Wharton, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of Safety.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 196, 200.

JOHN BULL TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1776.

Sir:

I have greeable to the order of Council, sent a great number of waggons to Philad'a for the Army, but find some of them Returning with furniture and poor distrest Inhabitants, which I cannot prevent. I am on the same Service yet, but shall be glad of your further directions by my son, (who is the bearer of this.) I have sent a few of my small Batt'n.

I am, Sir, your Hu'ble Serv't,

JNO. BULL.

Dec. 11, 1776.

Directed,

To Thos. Wharton, Esq., Presid't Committee Safety, or in his absence, to Mr. Rittenhouse.

℘ Ez'l Bull.

JOHN HUBLEY TO LUDWIG LAUMAN, 1776.

Philada., December 11th, 1776.

Hon'd Sir,

By this Waggon the Council sends an Iron Chest, containing some thousands of Dollars, a Cask with our most valuable Papers, with another Iron Chest belonging to John M. Nesbitt, Esq., which please to put into some safe place in your House. We are yet in a very disagreeable situation; however, the Enemy have not been able to cross Delaware; unfortunate for us that the Militia do not turn out, there is yet a great chance of saving the City. A Member of our Council is just come in, who says that part of the Enemy are marched up the River from Trentown, part are still there, and part are marched down the River, this is with intent to divide our Army, and then attempt to cross. Some of Col. Hand's Regiment has crossed to the East side of the River to annoy the Enemy—some other Companies are there likewise and plague them a good deal—one of our Parties has taken a Port-mantua full of Papers & Letters to the Officers from England, Howe dispached the Light Horse after them, who overtook the Party, but we beat them off several times, and got off safe.

I am, Sir, your h'ble Serv't,

JOHN HUBLEY.

We have just a Letter by Express, that about 4 or 500 of the Enemy have taken Possession of Burlington. I expect to see the Enemy to-morrow or next day opposite Philada.

Directed,

To Mr. Ludwig Lauman, Lancaster.

MAJOR ENNION WILLIAMS TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1776.

Thompson's Mill, 2½ below Coryell's Ferry,
Decem'r 12th, 1776.

Gentlemen,

There is not now either Officer or Soldier of the late Col. Atlee's Batallion with me; they are either in or near Philad'a, you will therefore, no doubt, request the Officers to collect such of the men as are there fit for duty. Our Regiment remains in 12 Companies, consisting of about 200 Rank and File, 16 or 17 Serjeants, 14 Subalterns, and 6 Captains, fit for duty, in good Spirits, tho' thinly clad and penniless: Mr. Sprogell and Captain Redman remained with the Regiment about 6 hours; our situation was such that they could not attend to the Mustering and paying them; but as soon as we know where we shall remain for a few Days, it will be very happy for our Reg't to be supplied with Cloths and part of their Pay at least.

Lieut. Burns is promoted in the Congress's Regiment, and is gone to Philad'a. Adjutant Wallace has not been with the Regiment since we left Trenton Ferry, and if he joins the Reg't again, he will be tried for his conduct; his absenting himself thus without Leave, at a time when we heard the Enemy were landed on this shore, and expected to go immediately to action, is too gross Behaviour to pass unnoticed.

Capt. Farmer and Lieut. Maise, are gone to Philad'a with a complaint of the Rheumatism, perhaps by this time they may be recovered, and may collect a number of our men that are strolling in Philad'a.

General Lee, we are well informed, is in the Jersey near Morris Town, with a formidable Army, we expect he will attack the Rear of the Enemy, we are in great hopes of his success; I do not expect they will attempt a Landing near this, however, we are destroying or sinking every boat or means of transporting Troops to this shore.

It is my opinion that the Enemy will be prevented from reaching this side of Delaware this year, the Prisoners that have lately been taken are very ragged, and no Doubt the Enemy will be severely pinched by the cold.

I hope Col. Brodhead is perfectly recovered, if he intends to continue in the Provincial Service, it would give me Satisfaction to hear it.

The General issued in orders yesterday, that the Streets of Philadelphia were crouded with Officers, and desires that those fit for duty may join their respective Corps immediately.

I am fully in hopes that we shall soon extricate ourselves from the present unfavorable appearance of affairs, and that success will yet crown our virtuous Efforts.

I am, with great Respect,

Gentlemen,

Your humble Servant,

ENNION WILLIAMS.

Directed.

The Honourable the Council of Safety for the State of Pennsylvania.

℘ favour Mr. Davis.

Mease & Caldwell to Council of Safety, 1776.

12th Dec'r, 1776.

Sir,

As we are exceedingly press'd for a supply of Tents of the Use of the Army, w'ch are much wanted, & As the Bear Mr. Robert Bridges, is engaged in making a Quantity which he has been prevented from finishing, by his hands & himself being otherwise Employ'd & now says he can not finish unless he can have some Indulgence given him. We would beg leave to recommend it to your board, thro' you Sir, whether the Public will not be served by allowing him to stay & finish them.

We are Respectfully, Sir,

Yr very Hble Serv'ts,

MEASE & CALDWELL.

Directed,

To Mr. Thos. Wharton, Junr.

Thomas Seymour to Council of Safety, 1776.

Gentlemen:

Capt. Roach is just come down here and acquaints me he saw a considerable number of Waggons, passing along the Jersey Shore

some distance from the Banks; by intelligence he brings, there is about two thousand of the Enemy.

I am Gentlemen,

Your most obedt Servant,

THOS. SEYMOUR.

Dunk's Ferry, Decr 12th, 1776.

Directed.

To the Honbl. Council of Safety,
at Philadelphia.

MAJOR ENNION WILLIAMS TO OWEN BIDDLE, 1776.

Two Miles below Coryell's Ferry,
Decemr 13, 1776.

Dear Sir,

Lord Stirling has this morn been pleased to direct that our Regiment shall be paid off and Clothing sent for, for as many as are here; you will please therefore, to forward to me immediately, such Clothing as you have ready, to the Number of 230 Suits. They want Shirts, Shoes, Breeches, Waistcoats, Coats & Stockings, and about 50 Blankets; however, such of these as you have, please send off without Delay to our poor Distress'd soldiers, under the care of one of our Officers with a small Party of our Men, who no Doubt are strolling in Philada.

My Lord has directed me to send off some of our Officers to recruit; I shall refer them to the Council of State for their Directions; I would recommend that they recruit for the Regiment generally, & not for any particular Companies.

We do not now apprehend Philad'a in much Danger, and are in high Spirits on acct of the Movement of General Lee, and Gen. Gates, in the Rear of the Enemy.

I am, with great Esteem, Sir,

Your friend & humble Servant,

ENNION WILLIAMS.

Directed.

Owen Biddle, Esquire, In Market near Third Street, Philada.
℞ favor Lieut. Boyd.

Wm. Brown to Richard Eyers, 1776.

On board Battery Putnam,
13 December, 1776.

Sir,

I just now received yours, and am surprised that the Honorable Council of Safety, should either forget what orders they gave me yes'day, or if they have not, which way they think I should comply with their orders, if they order my men and Officers away, for without both I cannot comply, as I have seven or eight already in Different Vessells in the fleet, and a Greater number Sick. But if they see proper to give you an Order for them all, you may have them Battery and all.

I am, Sir,
Your most hum^le Servt,
WILLIAM BROWN.*

Directed,
To Rich'd Eyers, Esq'r, Commander of the Galley.

Resolution of Council of Safety 1776.

In Council of Safety.

Philadelphia, Dec. 13, 1776.

Resolved,

That William Smith, Broker, Samuel Jefferies, Joseph Stansbury, David Shoemaker, and Joel Zane. be discharged from the custody of Mr. Robert Jewell, conditionally. That they confine themselves to their own dwelling houses until enlarged by the authority presiding in this State, and that they will hold no correspondence with, or give any intelligence to, the Enemies of the United States of America, nor do any act or thing directly or indirectly, that will be any ways prejudicial to this State or any of the United States of America.

* See page 99.

Major Ennion Williams to Council of Safety, 1776.

Two Miles below Coryell's Ferry,
Dec'r 13, 1776.

Gentlemen:

This morning Lord Sterling has been plea's'd to permit me to send for Clothing for our Regiment, and to have them paid off, which I have taken the Liberty to inform Owen Biddle, Esquire, and Captain Redman, the Paymaster of, by this opportunity.

The men are barefooted and very thinly clad, and have not received any Pay these three months. The Officers made some considerable objections to the instructions of the Paymaster; however, I have no doubt on your Revisal of them, that they will be such as *no reasonable* objections can be made to them, if any could formerly.

Lord Sterling has directed me to send off some of the officers to Recruit for the Regiment, and requests that the Officers of the late Col. Atlee's Battalion may also go on the Recruiting Service immediately. 4 Captains & 12 Subalterns are to remain with the Reg^t, the rest will have my Directions to apply to you for your instructions on this subject. I do not imagine that we shall move from this Station these 5 or 6 Days.

It will give me pleasure to hear from you, in the mean time I am

With the greatest Esteem,

Gentlemen,

Your very humble Servant,

ENNION WILLIAMS.

Directed.

The Honorable the Council of Safety, for the State of Penna.

☞ Favor of Lieut. Boyd.

John Bayard to Council of Safety, 1776.

Camp at Bristol, Dec'r 13th, 1776.

Dear Sir,

The Brigade commanded by Col. Cadwallader, consisting of the Philada. militia, came to this place this day from Trenton Ferry. We are greatly distressed to find no more of the Militia of our state Joining General Washington at this time, for God's Sake what shall we do, is the cause deserted by our State, & shall a few Brave men offer their Lives a Sacrifice against treble their number without assistance? for my own part, I came cheerfully out, not doubting We

should be Joined by a number sufficient to drive our Enemy back, with Shame, Disgrace & Loss; but alas, here we are about 4 or 5000 men, to oppose a Regular Army, well disciplin'd & flushed with success, said to consist of 15,000, headed by able Generals & encouraged by the Inhabitants of the Country through w'ch they march. We now ought to have had at least 10,000 militia from our State, instead of that we have about 1200 from Philadelphia, & 200 from Bucks County; are our People fast asleep, or have they determined basely to give up the cause of their Country? If the latter, humanity, at least, ought to lead to an Explicit Declaration, in order to save the Blood of those Worthy men who are ready to offer it in the Gen[l] Cause, & give them an equal oppertunity of making their peace. I am far from thinking our cause desperate, If our people would but turn out, but I am sure if the Enemy proceed & we are not supported, the City (*at least will be lost*,) I beleive the Council do every thing in their power, but you cannot expect that our few Citizens, Join'd to the small remains of Gen[l] Washington's Army will offer up their lives without a prospect of success, unless join'd by a proper force. What are you doing with Tories & disafected persons?

We are informed to day by a Gen[t] from Burlington, that Rich[d] Wells was there yesterday, (doubtless with advice to the Enemy,) & return'd that night. He informed the People that Gen[l] Putnam intended burning the City. You ought to have Guards fix'd at all the Ferrys & stop intelligence going over to the Jerseys,—but I have no paper & must stop. If I thought I could be of any service I would leave my Battalion & come down for a little while, for God's sake, exert yourselves.

I am, Dr Sir,

Yours,

JNO. BAYARD.

The Bearer, Doct[r] Harris, can give the Council the full Intelligence respecting Mr. Wells, &c.

J. B.

Directed.

To Thomas Wharton, Esq., President of the Council of Safety.
℞ Doct[r] Jackson.

Henry Fisher to Council of Safety, 1776.

Lewes, Decemb'r ye 14, 1776.

Gentlemen:

The Roebuck is at this time cruseing off the light house and the small Ship is up the Bay at anchor Near the Brandywine, there has no more ships appeared as yet, you may Depend if there should, I

shall give you the earliest acc'ts. I shall refer you to Mr. Davis Bevan for the Particulars Relateing the ship's Destination.

I am with Due Respect,

Yours to Command,

HENRY FISHER.

Directed,

To the Honorable the Counsel of Safety in Philadelphia.

☞ Favour Mr. Bevan.

JOSEPH READ TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1776.

Bristol, Dec. 14, 1776.

Gentlemen,

It is of the greatest importance that all the Arms should be taken from the Soldiers who are leaving the Army on whatever pretence. Many of them, indeed the most, make for Philadelphia, so that with some Pains, it is to be hoped a great Number might be secured.

If the General or the commanding Officer of Brigades had authority to collect arms from those who do not turn out on this occasion, many might probably be got that there may be Danger of being used against us, especially in this County.

I beg Leave to suggest these things for your Consideration, & am most respectfully,

Gentlemen,

Your obed^t H'ble Servt,

JOS. REED.

Directed,

To The Hon. the Presid^t of the Council of Safety, Philad'a.

SAML. C. MORRIS TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1776.

Bristol, Saturday, 14 Decem., 1776.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by Capt Cowperthwait to return you the names of such persons as have associated in his Company and are expert in the military exercise; they have not turned out with us in this time of imminent danger, and I think it highly proper they shou'd be called upon for their reasons for not taking share with us in our

distresses. I need not point out to you the necessity of this measure; it is absolutely necessary that they shou'd either join us or be set to work on Fortifications; they are almost all young & hearty and very capable of working; this is giving you trouble, but you are the only Body we can look up to in this matter, and we trust you will make some Enquiry about them. I well know you have much to do, and that many matters of high importance engage your attention, but these of apparently lesser moment must be thought of, as those who have nobly appeared on the field in this inclement Season think it hard that others equally able shou'd be suffered to stay at home, and shall hope that your Honorable Body will act as you may judge most proper.

I need not inform you that the City Militia are now here—you must have been informed of this movement last night—our Stay here will not be long—orders are every minute expected for marching back again to Head Quarters; the enemy have entirely disappeared from Burlington and have gone to Trenton. Howe will certainly make his Push from that place to Philad^{a}; all our force will of course be drawn there, and with G^{l} Lee's assistance we hope to equal them in Numbers; the fate of our City still depends on the Militia marching forward—for God's Sake strain every nerve to urge them on,—every thing dear & valuable depends on the Exertion of a few days. I have the Honor to be, with great Respect, Your very h'ble Servt,

SAM. C. MORRIS.

Names of the Absent Light Infantry men.

William Gray,	Charles French,
Benj^{a}. Thaw,	Benj^{a}. Taylor,
John M'Calla,	And^{w} Lawrence,
John Jenkins,	Joseph Spencer,
Capt James Johnson,	John Pitman,
Jemmy Johnson,	Richard Inkson,
Samuel Taylor,	Parnell Gibbs,
Samuel Reed,	William Roberts,
John Le Tellier,	David Martin,
Joseph Trotter,	John Saltar,
William Stretch,	Uriah Falkner,
Richard Graham,	Lawrence Allman,
William Milnor,	Benj^{a}. Davis,
William Thaw,	Thomas Clark,
James Watkins,	Jacob Park,
John Thomas,	Saml Lee.

Mr Howell,

You know the names of the above, & I believe know where they all live; do think of them, & think of us who are on the Field.—

Your Brother is well—our Company are all in good Quarters at Ennion Williams'—we are well & hearty.

Believe me, Dear Jacob, Your obedt Servt,

S. C. MORRIS.

Saturday, 9 O'Clock, A.M.

Directed.

To The Honorable The Council of Safety, Philadelphia.

CHRISTOPHER WITMAN, CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE OF BERKS COUNTY, 1776.

Reading, Decemr 14th, 1775.

Gentlemen,

In answer to yours of the 8th Ult., respecting the Powder belonging to the Committee of Berks County, I am directed to acquaint You that there are fourteen Casks yet on Hand, which they are willing to let you have.

The Price of the Powder is four Pounds ℔ Cask, amounting in the Whole to fifty-six Pounds; and as it was purchased of the Committee of the City & Liberties of Philadelphia, You are requested to pay them the Amount, and send us their Receipt by the Bearer or such other Person as may be directed to call for it, together with Forty Shillings for the Charges of Carriage & Storage while here.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your very humble

Servt,

CHRIST'R. WITMAN,

Chairman of the Committee.

Directed.

To Messrs Samuel Howell & John Cadwallader, Members of the Committee of Safety of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia.

℔ Favour of Mr Bright.

Commissioners of Berks Co. to Council of Safety, 1776.

Reading, December 14th, 1775.

Gentlemen:

The Commissioners of Berks County having informed the Committee of Correspondence that the Persons employed in the making of ffire arms for the Use of the Province complain that they cannot go on with the Work for Want of ready money to purchase the necessary materials, We take the Liberty, at their Request, to acquaint you that we conceive it will be very difficult (if not impossible) for the Commissioners to comply with the Recommendation of the Honble State Assembly, unless they are furnished with a Sum of Money to enable them to do so, and as Mr Bright, one of the Commissioners will apply to you for that Purpose, we beg leave to recommend him to you as a Gentleman on whose Representation of the matter you may depend. We are, Gentlemen, Your very humble Serv^ts,

Thomas Youngman,	Christ'r Witman,
Jonathan Potts,	Henry Haller,
Collinson Read,	Bar'o Otto.

Directed:

To the Hon'ble the Committee of Safety of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia.

℞ Favour of Mr Mich^l Bright.

Major Ennion Williams to Council of Safety, 1776.

Thompson's Mill, near Coryell's Ferry,
Decr 16, 1776.

Gentlemen,

Capt. Redman & Mr. Sprogell are just arriv'd, and I am favor'd with your Letter of the 15th Ins^t. It will give me much Satisfaction if I can get the 300 suits you mention to be sent to Lord Sterling, & unless it may happen thus favorable, I cannot see how it will be possible to make the Regiment satisfied for the Loss of the Suits made on Purpose for them, which I am too well inform'd are to our Mortification deliver'd out to other Regiments; this, amongst other unfortunate Circumstances, perhaps may have an ill Effect; it is a Mystery to me that this accident should thus happen; however, amidst other matters, this is attempted to be laid at my Door, it will therefore give me Satisfaction to have the Letter wrote to you

from Brunswick safely kept, as that mentions that Lord Sterling (upon my Application to have the Clothing sent for) directed "that they should remain in Philad^a."

Capt. Philip Albright and Mr. Jacob Laorsneybe, Q^r Master, have been absent without Leave these two Days. I am inform'd they are in Philad^a; it is such a President at a Time when we may expect an attack hourly, that no doubt you will take proper Notice of.

The General has order'd that an officer of each Regiment remain in Philad^a to see the Sick taken Care of, and that all such as are fit for Duty be sent to the Regiment; to this Department I have appointed Lieut. Thos. Boyd, who is now in the city.

Upon my last application to Lord Sterling, at Brunswick, that the Arrangement of the Companies might take Place, he desir'd that no Alteration might take Place while under his Command; so that the 12 Companies are retain'd as usual, which is very troublesome, and thus it will remain, untill you shall think proper to make a new arrangement for Ten Companies, or request that I may apply to General Washington for his Permission that the former may take Place.

It will give me Satisfaction to hear of the Receipt of such Letters as you may from Time to Time receive from

Gentlemen,

Your very humbe Servant,

ENNION WILLIAMS.

Directed.—(On Public Service.)

The Honorable the Council of State of Philadelphia.

DAVID CHAMBERS TO GEN. WASHINGTON, 1776.

Amwell, Decr 16th, 1776.

Sir,

Herewith I send your Excellency 4 prisoners, that we took last evening, 2 being Regulars; one of the others, by name Jno Vandyke, a Malitious, Active Tory, and is said to have let some prisoners out of Millstone Goal, and Assembled and Spirited the Negroes against us. And as I am Informed, was about a week since taken prisoner in Company with some light Horse by our people, and confin'd, who says he was discharg'd from s^d Confinement by Order of Congress, and travelled into Jersey by the way of Easton, from thence to Jno Ringoes, where he call'd himself by the name of —— Jones. The The other is a person employed as Post by Jesse Wall, of Trenton, in conveying intelligences, Letters, &c., for the use of the Regular Army; And from the best information I can get, their forces are on the move from Pennington; I am since inform'd the said Vandyke

made his escape from Ld Sterling, and given Orders for him to be left with him, if so.

I have the Honour to Subscribe myself

your most obedent & very Hum^e Servt,

DAVID CHAMBER.

Directed,

To his Excellency Gen. Washington, at his Quarters.

Wm. Crispin to Council of Safety, 1776.

I am directed to Write to you for Three or Four Kegs of Gun flints, There being None here, and a great Cry for them; the Colonel of the Brigade requests that they be sent forthwith.

I am Yours to Serve,

WM. CRISPIN.

Bristol, Decem^r 16th, 1776.

Done.

Directed.

To the Honourable the Council of Safety for the State of Pennsylvania.

Capt. J. B. Bowen to Council of Safety, 1776.

17th Dec^r, 1776.

Honble Gentlemen,

As there are now several Companies of the ninth Regiment in the Barracks, without a field officer (of their Regim^t) to command them; I beg leave to represent to the Honble Board, (in behalf of myself and the other Captains of that Regim^t,) that a Speedy settlement of their Rank will be absolutely necessary to keep up that harmony which is essential to good Order & Duty; In which settlement I hope the Board will consider me as the eldest Subaltern in the three Provincial Battallions, & not put new or younger officers (or even officers of the Flying Camp) over me.

I am the honor^ble Councils most

obliged & obedient Servant,

J. B. BOWEN, Capt. 9th Reg^t.

Directed,

Honble Council of Safety.

Resolution of Council of Safety, 1776.

In Council of Safety,
Philadelphia, Decr 17, 1776.

Resolved, That it be recommended to General Washington to issue orders immediately for the Militia of Bucks and Northampton Counties forthwith to join his army, and to send out parties to disarm every person who does not obey the summons, & to seize and treat as Enemies all such as shall attempt to oppose the execution of this measure, and likewise every person in the sd Counties who are known or suspected to be Enemies to the United States.

Extract from the Minutes.

Resolution of Council of Safety, 1776.

In Council of Safety,
Decem. 17th, 1776.

Whereas it has been represented to this Board, that the resolve for shutting up the Shops in this City, which this Council published with the view of hastening the march of the Militia, has been taken advantage of by some disaffected persons, who under pretence of obedience to said resolve, still continue to refuse to sell their Goods, whereby great inconvenience arises to the inhabitants.

Resolved, That the Stores and Shops in this City be immediately opened by the owners, and goods sold at a moderate Profit; those who refuse to comply with this resolve may expect to be dealt with as Enemies of this State.*

Maj. Ennion Williams to Council of Safety, 1776.

Thompson's Mill, near Coryell's,
Decr 17, 1776.

Gentlemen,

Colonel Biddle has promised me such a Number of the 300 Suits coming up here as our Regiment may want; and informs me that he has Orders to permit no Troops (except those enlisted during the War or for 3 years) to have any Shoes, Stockings, or Clothing, that may come to his care, therefore, unless you provide Shoes and Stockings on Purpose for our bare-footed men, and direct them to

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. X., p. 26, 29.

me, or obtain an Permission from his Excellency that they may be delivered to us, it will be impossible for our Reg^t to do Duty here much longer. Our Regiment have undergone as much Hardship and Fatigue as any in the Army since July, and is it unreasonable to request that they be as well provided? The several Departments of Quarter Mas^r, Commissary & Paymaster, are now gliding in their proper Channel, and when the Command of our Regiment is settled, I make no doubt but it will be a Credit & Honour to this Province. Since you form'd the arrangement, the 24th Oct^r, one Captain is Prisoner, & one 1st Lieut; three 1st Lieut^s are promoted & left the Reg^t, and three second Lieu^s also. Two Ensigns are prisoners; Captain Brown, who is exchang'd, I think will chuse to be in this Reg^t, and perhaps Mr. Brown Lee, who is also exchang'd.

Two months' pay will be issued to-morrow.

I am, with great esteem, Gentlemen,

Your very humble Servant,

ENNION WILLIAMS.

P. S.—General Sullivan's Division are safely arriv'd on this side Delaware, the Enemy are moving towards Brunswick & Amboy.

Directed.—(On Publick Service.)

The Honorable the Council of Safety of the Pennsylvania.

Council of Safety to Brig. Gen. Dickenson, 1776.

Philadelphia, Dec. 17, 1776.

Sir,

Your Letter of no date, respecting your servant and a Letter found in his custody, I have laid before the Council of Safety, and have their orders to acquaint you that the servant was set at liberty yesterday. As to the Letter, a copy of it is enclosed to General Washington, the original the Council think it proper to retain in their hands.

I have the honour to be with great respect,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

Directed,

Brigadier General Philemon Dickinson.

Paragraph of a Letter to Gen. Washington, dated Decr 17, 1776.

A Servant of Brigadier General Dickinson last Friday afternoon requested a Pass to your Camp, having as he said, a letter from J. Dickinson, Esq., to his master. The Council thought it proper to examine the contents, a copy of which is herewith enclosed to you, the original appears to be in John Dickinson, Esq., his handwriting. The General has requested the Letter may be sent to him, but the Council think it proper to retain the original in their hands, and have referred him to you for the copy of it, if you shall judge proper to give it to him.

MAJOR ENNION WILLIAMS TO OWEN BIDDLE, 1776.

Thompson's Mill, near Coryell's, Decr 17th, 1776.

Dear Sir,

By this opportunity I have wrote the Council of Safety, and inform'd them that your Brother has promis'd me as many of the 800 Suits coming here as our Regt wants, but that he has orders to deliver no Shoes, Stockings or Clothing to any Troops, except they are inlisted during the War, our men will therefore go barefooted unless the General shall consent that we may be supplied, or some other mode is pointed out.

Is it not a thousand Pities that this Regt, which is now the strongest in the Brigade, and born its full Proportion of Hardships and Fatigue, should still suffer; they are good men, and in my opinion will yet be a Credit to the Province on which they pique themselves.

All the officers are now satisfied with the arrangement of the officers, except Captain P. P. Albright, who has been absent without Leave or Licence in Philadelphia these several Days, he insists upon it that as Captain Brown was absent, he immediately became 2nd Captain before Captain Marshall, however, Capt. Brown is now exchang'd, and intends to join the Regt, if the Council think proper, as there is a vacancy, & if that should happen, Captain Albright's argument will have no Force, even if it had before.

It would give me some satisfaction to know if I have any Brother Field Officers or not; or who are likely to be. The Enemy afford us a little Leisure to think of these matters now.

I am, with Great Esteem, Sir,

Your affectionate humb. servant,

ENNION WILLIAMS.

Directed,

Owen Biddle, Esquire. In Philada.

Major Proctor to Council, &c. 1776.

Sir,

To-morrow the ferry at Rudolphs' will be in order, and I have got two boats to ply to Fort & Province Islands, agreeable to your Instructions, Capt. Rice's Gally arriv'd from Cape about an hour ago, and Anchors off the Fort. The Lieut. of which Informs of Eight Ships and three tenders being in the Cape, the Towey and Roebuck is supposed to be two of them. The vessels which were leaving port are some of them gone into Morriss river, others into Christeen, &c., one vessell taken, said to be a Frenchman. I should be glad to have some Casks of powder sent down here, as there is room in the magazine. The Floating batterys expects supplies from the Garrison, as they have but Fifty rounds for each Gun. It is more than probable that these ships would not attempt our river at this precarious season, did they not Intend forcibly to form a Conjunction with Lord Howe, under these Conjectures, think it highly Expedient that a sufficient number of men Should be thrown in Immediately for the Defence of this place, being Exceeding weak, by a reason of Detatchments being sent to Join the Grand Army, & Desertions so prevalent, & be assured if I am suitably furnished with men, provisions and stores, the English shall purchase deer what ever they get from me.

I am, Sir, Y^r Obe^t, Humble servant,

THOS. PROCTOR.

Fort Island, Tuesday Even^g,
7 o'Clock, Decr 17th, 1776.

N. B.—Something ought to be done to prevent their possessing themselves of Red Bank & Billings' Port, as I have not been able to do any thing at either for want of men.

Directed,

(On Public service.) To the President of Council of Safety, Philadelphia.

Gen. Putnam to Capt. Proctor, 1776.

Sir,

Your letter of 17th instant, requesting to know in what manner you shall act respecting the conduct of the men under your Command, I therefore desire that you will strictly comply with the regulations for the punishment of crimes as ordered by the Honourable

Congress, for every crime your men commit they are to be tried particularly, and punished for every crime as specified in the regulations.

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

ISRAEL PUTNAM, M. G.

Head Quarters, Philada., Decem^r 18th, 1776.

Directed,

Capt. Proctor, Commandant at Fort Island.

COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO ———; 1776.

In Council of Safety,
Philada., 18th Decem. 1776.

Sir,

You are hereby ordered to use your best endeavour to procure if possible a sufficient number of volunteers immediately, to man your Schooner and proceed in consort with Captain Rice to Christiana Creek to protect the Public Stores and the Merchant Vessels that lay there, particular instructions will be given to Captain Rice, who will take the command on that Station.

INSTRUCTIONS OF COUNCIL TO ———, 1776.

In Council of Safety,
Philada., 19th Decem^r, 1776.

Sir,

You are hereby ordered to apply to this Council for necessaries for your Crew, and they shall be supplied, after which you are to proceed down to Christiana Creek and use your best endeavours to protect the Public Stores and Merchant Vessels there, Captain Eyres in the Delaware Armed Vessel has orders to go in consort with you, as you are the Senior Officer, the Command on that Station will rest with you, and as the Stores and effects up that Creek are of great value, we hope you will exert yourself for their preservation at the same time taking care to secure the armed vessels under your Command from being taken, should they unluckily be so circumstanced, that they must otherwise inevitably fall into the Enemies hands,

you are to burn or destroy them if possible, the rest we must leave to your discretion, wishing you health and happiness.

Council of Safety to Mease & Caldwell, 1776.

In Council of Safety,
Philada., 19th Decem^r, 1776.

Sir,

We are informed that many of the recruits now in this City, suffer exceedingly for want of Blanketting, and many desert for that reason, therefore do recommend it to you to supply them if possible, as the recruiting service would be greatly promoted thereby.

By order of Council.
THOS. WHARTON, Jun'r, Presid^t.

Directed,
To Messrs. Mease & Caldwell.

Mease & Caldwell Present their most Respectfull Com^ts to the President of the Council of Safety, & beg leave to assure the Council thro' him, that they are extremely desirous of accommodating the Army with every Necessary they can collect for that Purpose, and beg they will believe that the whole of what they purchase is faithfully apply'd to that use, but when any supply is wanted for any Part^r. Department, Company or Batallion, they cannot think themselves proper Judges of the Expediency of supplying any or rather every Officer or Soldier without a Written Order from the Council, or some other proper Authority, specifying the Quantity, & it may be depended on that such Order shall be executed if possible.
19th Dec^r, 1776.

Hugh Montgomery to Joseph Blewer, 1776.

Ancocus Creek's Mouth, Decr 19th, 1776.

S^r,

I Beg pardon for making so free with you bay Wrighting you; it is absoluetly a Cass of necessity urges me to it. With Regard to my People's sleeping, we hav onlay three rugs and three blancots, which was delivered to them when they were in the Baraks Last winter before I Came too the Arm'd Boat Effingham. I hav now twenty Aight men on board, Excluding Comishon'd Officers, and

wold be glad you wold be kind anugh to suply my 1st Lutenant Mr McKneel, the berer, with twenty blankets, for the poor fellows is verry much destres'd for them this Cold Weather.

Sr, I am your verry Humble
Servent to Command,
HUGH MONTGOMERY.

Directed.
To Joseph Blewer, Esqr, Philadelphia.

Lewis Nicola Orders to Bridge Guard, 1776.

As Leutinant Bunbury has made a report this Morning to the Town Major that the Southern District did not furnish its men to the Bridge Guard yesterday, ordered that the Searjants and Corporals should keep accounts of every man warned for Duty, & if any do not appear must procure another person in his room, who shall receive five Shillings for his trouble, which 5 Shillings shall be Charged to the account of the pay & Rations of the person not appearing.

The Officer commanding the Bridge Guard must observe such Derections as shall be given by Capt Allen Moore or Leutinant Richliff Alberson.

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Daniel Joy to Committee of Safety, 1776.

Gentlemen:

Agreeable to your Instructions I have prooved the two Brass cannon cast by Majore Loxley; the first after a Scalleing charge, I tryed it with four pounds of Powder, which burst it. The Second, after Scalleing, Loaded it with Three pounds, two Shot & three wadds, after which I gave it the full Proof of four pounds, Shot & wadds as before. Then gave it a third proof like the first, which it stood with out any other visiable Damage than the blowing off apice of the Musle, Since which have got it sawed of square, Dressed the outside, fixed the Elivating Screw, mounted it on a traveling carriage, & sent it to the State House yard. But as the carriag doth not Sute it I have desired Mr Nevil to make one more Sutable. The Cylinder of sd gun is Three feet five Inches long, which is about ten & a-half Inches shorter then if cast perffect.

DANIEL JOY.

Present Decber 20th, 1776.
To the Hble Council of Safety.

Copy of Orders issued to the City Guard, from the 9th December to the 20th of December, 1776.

December the 9th, 1776. Parole, Lee.

The Officers & men enrolling themselves in the 6 Companies of City Guards are to be allowed rations as well as pay.

December 10th, 1776. Parole, Gates.

As it is often requisite to put men on Duty in such haste as will not admit calling on them regularly, each District must furnish them without attending to their proper turns, but the Searjant Major must make Daily Returns of the Number of men furnished by each District beyond its usual guards to the Town Major, who will take Care that allowance shall be made by the other Districts, so that none shall do more Duty than comes to its Share.

The North District to furnish immediately 1 Serjant, 1 Corporal, & 12 men, to mount Guard in the Courthouse & receive orders from Leutinant Col. Dean.

One Searjant, 1 Corporal & 15 men, to parade to-morrow morning at 7 o'Clock under the Courthouse, in order to march to Baltimore in Maryland, therefor the must be picked men, fit for the Service. The Northern District to furnish a Searjant & 5 men, the Middle District a Corporal & 5 men, & the Southern District 5 men.

Whereas, a considerable Delay was occasioned yesterday before the escort of the prisoners of war could march, owing to the men's coming to the parade unprepared, whenever a Detachment is ordered every man must come prepared, as none will be permitted to return home.

A Main Guard to mount every afternoon at 3 o'Clock, & consist of two Subalterns, 2 Serjants, 2 Corporals, and 30 men, to parade under the Jersey Markethouse. The Northern District to furnish 2 Subalterns & 2 men. The middle District to furnish 1 Serjant, 1 Corporal & 5 men. The Southern District, 1 Serjant, 1 Corporal, & 23 men.

December the 11th, 1776. Parole, Mifflin.

The Main Guard ordered for yesterday not having mounted must do it this Day, to which must be added till further Orders, 1 Captain, 1 Serjant, 1 Corporal, & 20 men. The Northern District to furnish a Captain, 1 Searjant, 1 Corporal & 14 men, the Southern District 6 men. The Commanding Officer of the Main Guard to observe such Directions as shall be given by Leut. Col. Dean, Capt Watkins, Capt Johnson, & Capt Bethel.

The Captains of the 6 City Companies must give in a Return as soon as possible to the Town Major of the Number of men in each Company actually enrolled, that he may give an order for their Ra-

tions, and mus specify the Number that will take Rations & of those that choose money.

December the 12th, 1776. Parole, Philadelphia.

As great Difficulty is found in procuring the ordinary Guards, & also such as are occasionally wanted, the Serjants & Corporals of the Different Companies must give to the Town Major the name of every man warned for Duty who does not attend, and he will be muloted his Day's pay & Rations.

A Captain, 2 Subalterns, 2 Serjts, 2 Corpls, & 50 men, to mount the Main Guard this Afternoon, & to parade in Christ Church Yard. The Northern District to furnish 1 Capt, 1 Subaltern, & 33 men. The middle District 1 Serjt, 1 Corpl. The Southern District 1 Sub., 1 Serjt, 1 Corpl, & 27 men.

No man to stir from his guard without leave from their Officer, who may permitt one at a time to go for his Victuals from a Guard of 10 men, & in proportion for every larger number. The Officers of the main Guard must in their turns patrole through the City & secure Disorderly persons & all Soldiers out of their quarters, & make a report next morning to the Town Major.

An Orderly Serjt or Corporal from each District to attend the Town Major every Day at 3 o'Clock.

December the 14th, 1776.

The Orders of the 12th Instant for an orderly Serjt or Corporal from each District to attend the Town Major every Day at 3 o'clock not having been complied with, he reports them & the Searjants Majors of the different Districts return Daily to the Town Major the Names of the Serjt or Corporals whose turn it is to attend.

December the 15th, 1776.

One Subaltern, 1 Serjt, 1 Corpl, & 20 men, to mount guard Daily at the middle Ferry, & receive orders from Captain Lesdorp. Middle District to furnish 1 Subaltern. The Northern District to furnish 1 Serjt, 1 Corpl, & 10 men. The Southern District 10 men.

December the 16th, 1776.

Wereas, Complaint has been made to the Hon'ble Council of Safety that some persons with arms have gone about the Town in the Night, particularly in the Middle District, & under pretence of getting men to mount guard, have extorted money from some of the Inhabitens to excuse them, Ordered, that no person presumes to go about with arms after Sunset, & all the Inhabitants are requested to give notice to the Town Major of such as have already or may hereafter take money on that pretence, that he may make a report thereof to the Council of Safety.

Those men who have been on Command to New Town or on the Main Guard at the Courthouse, & have not return'd their Arms, must bring them to the Town Major to morrow morning.

The Northern District to furnish Daily one Subaltern for the Bridge Guard, and for this Day's Bridge Guard 1 Subaltern, 1 Serg^{t}, & 12 men. The Southern District 1 Corporal & 8 men.

December 17th, 1776.

The Northern District to furnish for the Bridge Guard, 1 Subaltern, 1 Corporal & 12 men, the Southern District 1 Serjant & 8 men.

The Guard for the Bridge over Sckullkill must parade every afternoon in the Statehouse Yard.

All the Guards must for the future parade at 1 o'Clock.

December the 18th, 1776.

The Northern District to furnish for the Bridge Guard 1 Subaltern, & 12 men, the Southern District 1 Serg^{t}, 1 Corp^{l}, & 8 men.

7 o'Clock, P.M. The Statehouse Guard to be reinforc'd with a Corporal & four men from the Northern District, & 5 men from the South District.

December the 19th, 1776.

The Northern District to furnish 1 Subaltern, 1 Searjant, & 12 men for the Bridge Guard, & 2 men for the Statehouse Guard. The Southern District to furnish 8 men & a Corporal to the Bridge Guard, and one man to the Statehouse Guard.

December the 20th, 1776.

The Northern District to furnish 1 Subaltern, 1 Corporal, & 12 men for the Bridge Guard, and 2 men to the Statehouse Guard. The Southern District 1 Serj^{t} and 8 men to the Bridge Guard, and 7 men to the State house Guard, as the Northern District furnished 6 men extraordinary yesterday.

Resolution of Congress, 1776.

In Congress, Oct. 7, 1776.

Resolved,

That as a further encouragement for gentlemen of abilities to engage as commission officers in the batallions to be furnished by the several states to serve during the war their monthly pay be encreas'd as follows:

A Colonel, to - - -	75	dollars.
Lieut. Colonel, to - -	60	"
Major, to - - -	50	"
Captain, to - - -	40	"
Lieutenant, to - - -	27	"
Ensign, to - - -	20	"
Quarter Master, to - -	27½	"
Adjutant, to - - -	40	"

Dec'r 21, 1776.

Resolved,

That officers of troops inlisted for three years or during the war, receive pay on the new establishment, from the time of their being appointed by their respective states in consequence of the resolution of Congress, passed the 16 Septr last.

Extract from the minutes.

CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.

FRANCIS JOHNSTON TO GENERAL MIFFLIN, 1776.

Cross-Roads, Dec'r 21st, 1776.

Dear Genl,

I hope the Subject of this Letter will serve as a sufficient apology for the liberty I take in writing to you.

I think it my Duty to inform you of the strange and perverse Change in Politicks, which hath taken place through a great part of this County.

Even some *quondam* associators, as well as conscientiously scrupulous men, totally refuse to accept Congress money as payment for old Debts, And there are some so maliciously averse to our support of Liberty, that they refuse to part with any commodity whatsoever, even the Necessaries of Life, unless they get hard money or the old Paper Currency of this Province. Most of the Tavern keepers who are friends on the Lancaster Road, have pull'd down their Signs & refuse the Soldiery Provisions or drink—they will assign you no reason for such conduct; the reason however is too evident, they are afraid to receive Congress Money.

The other Day a man offered the sum of £300 Congress, for £150 Penna. Curr^cy.

While people are suffered thus to depreciate that money by which we carry on the present war, & are passed by unnoticed & with impunity, I cannot hesitate a moment in pronouncing the contest near an end, & what I dread, an inglorious one too.

What Officer or Soldier will enter into the Service in future, if the common & immediate necessaries of Life are denied them because they have it not in their power to lay down any other than Congress money?

Inclosed I beg leave to send you a Resolve, w'ch in my weak judgment, (if adopted by Congress,) would remedy every inconvenience.

If you should like it, you no doubt will exert your influence with that august Body, to have it passed as soon as possible.

I am, Dear Sir,

Sincerely yours, &c.

F. JOHNSTON.

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Resolved,

That all person or persons, (to whom Debts are now, or shall henceforth become due,) who shall refuse to accept Continental Money, from his or their Debtors in discharge of such Debts, (It being first properly tendered them in the presence of two witnesses,) shall, & they are hereby forever barred from the recovery of such Debts, and are hereby ordered to deliver up any Bond, Bill or Note, upon which such Debt may have become due unto the said Debtor or Debtors, and the Pains & Penalties of Fine & Imprisonment, &c.

Directed,

Brigadier Gen[l] Thos. Mifflin, Philadelphia.
Publick Business.

Robert Morris to Council of Safety, 1776.

Philad'a, Dec. 21st, 1776.

Gentlemen:

Capt. Alexander of the Delaware Frigate informs me, that some few of the Tradesmen now at Camp, are absolutely necessary to put his ship in a Condition to push down the Bay when the Enemie's ships retire. I think it will promote the Publick Service very much to order them down immediately.

I have sent down a Sloop to watch the Men of War, & doubt not we shall find an opportunity of gitting these Ships to Sea. Capt. Alexander will furnish the Council with the names of the Tradesmen wanted & I submit to your determination, being

Gentlemen,

Your obed[t] Serv[t],

ROBT. MORRIS.

Directed.

To the Honble the Council of Safety, Pennsylvania.

Col. Sam'l Griffin to Gen. Putnam, 1776.

Head Quarters Mount Holly,
21st Dec^r, 1776.

Hon'ble Sir,

This will be presented you by Mr. who has the Charge of a very notorious Enemy to America and a deserter of Maj. Mentzer's. I hope they will be properly secured, the former has been in my opinion, in the character of a Spy. We arrived at this Place yesterday about 3 o'clock.

The Enemy abandoned it about 10 in the Morn'g, to all appearance in great confusion, leaving their Beef, &c., & Fires burning; we made a forced march to come up with them, but the Scoundrels in this Country had give them information of our advancing.

They are now at the Black Horse, from this 7 Miles, we are not 600 strong, they at least 700, with 8 Field pieces, and from every acc^t expect a Reinforcement. I expect a Reinforcement this Even^g of 200 men; if they arrive, I hope to bring them to action To-morrow morn'g: this is a very dangerous Post, & cant be held without a large Reinforcement.

I am with the greatest respect,

Yr mo. obedt,

SAML. GRIFFIN.

Directed.

To the Hon'ble Israel Putnam, Esqr.,
Maj^r General in the Service of the American States.
Favored by Mr. Kennard.

Major Ennion Williams to Council of Safety, 1776.

Thompson's Mill, Dec. 21st, 1776.

Gentlemen,

The Bearer is Capt. John McGowan, who I have directed to proceed to Philad'a, to recruit for the Regiment agreeable to your Directions. I should be glad to be furnished with a Copy of the Recruiting Instructions which you deliver to the Officers. Mr. Lieut. Boyd, who was appointed to take care of the Sick is return'd, and I have appointed Ensign Andrew Lytle to see the Sick properly taken care of.

The 58 suits of New Clothes, 58 of old, the Caps & Shoes have come to hand and are distributing; the 300 suits mentioned to be

forwarded to Lord Sterling, I cannot hear anything further of, which I can't account for.

Herewith is a Return of the late two Batalions of Riflemen; the Musketry that are remaining I cannot account for, except such officers as were in the new arrangement; there no Doubt are many of our Soldiers stragling in Philad'a, and unless you have sent the officers lately of Col. Atlee's Batalion recruiting, it perhaps would be very well that one of them should collect & march the straglers to the Regiment. Our men lay out in huts made of Boards in a rough manner. Col. Hand's & other Regiments are biliting in Farmer's Houses.

I am Gentlemen with great Esteem,
Your very humble Servant,
ENNION WILLIAMS.

Directed.
The Hon'ble the Council of Safety.

JOHN HUBLEY TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1776.

Lancaster, Dec'r 21st, 1776.

Gentlemen,

General Mifflin having arrived here and this day intends to address the Militia, and hope by his happy Eloquence will inspire them to turn out to oppose the Enemy.

The General has informed me that the Militia who have already marched were badly accommodated on the Road with Provision & Lodgings. That the Tavern keepers do not give themselves the trouble to amend this fault, making many excuses and thereby injur the march of the Troops. He therefore thinks it adviseable That a Resolution be entered into & Published, That all those who keep Public Houses, or who have heretofore done so, and still live in the places where people used to be accommodated, should provide suitable Provisions, &c., for the Associators, and if they neglected so to do, the Associators should have power to accommodate themselves at such Houses, by killing such Cattle, &c., as was sufficient, giving a receipt for them to the owner, that he might be paid a reasonable Price by the Council. A Resolution of this kind, or something similar, ought, without the loss of a day, be made, and make no doubt you will pay immediate attention thereto.

I am Gentlemen,
Yours, &c.,
JOHN HUBLEY.

Directed,
On Public Service.
Council of Safety for the State of Pennsylvania.
From Mr. Hubley.

Council of Safety to President of Congress, 1776.

In Council of Safety.

December 22nd, 1776, Philad'a.

Sir:

The Council this day received the enclosed Letters from Tyconderoga. Their Contents are so melancholy & important, that we thought it our Duty to transmit them to you without delay. America has suffered more from herself than her Enemies, and until a thorough reform can take place in the several Departments, opposition will be vain. While more offices or a greater share of the public Business, is heaped upon the same person than he can possibly attend to, the fault is not his if they are but indifferently executed. It is the most important matter which can at this time attract the attention of Congress, and we hope that we shall be indulged in pressing it upon them. A few naked, sickly & ill-attended Troops must fall a prey to their own Distresses if not to the Enemy, and the blessing of heaven can scarcely be expected to attend a cause however Good, while the men who expose their lives in Defence of it are so ill rewarded.

I have the Honour to be,

By Order of Council,

Sir, your very humble Servant,

DAVID RITTENHOUSE.

A true Copy of a Letter of this date to Congress.

Directed,

The Hon'ble John Hancock, Esq.

Instructions of Council, &c., to ——, 1776.

In Council of Safety.

December 22d, 1776.

Sir,

You are hereby directed to order four of the armed Boats, that have the best accommodations to Bristol; when they arrive there, they are to receive further Orders from the Commanding Officer at that place. If the Crew are not provided with Blankets and other necessaries for that service, by applying to this Council they shall be supplied, and the Commissary is to supply the Crews with double allow

ance of Rum while they remain at that place. Care must be taken that the Boats be returned when they can no longer continue safe, on account of the Weather.

Maj. Thos. Proctor to Council of Safety, 1776.

Philadelphia, Dec. 23d, 1776.

Sir,

I waited on General Putnam to Fort Island yesterday, in order to view the works and the adjacent ground, and gave it as his opinion that works should be formed on Red-bank to prevent the enemy takeing the advantage of its situation; and the Block houses at the Fort should be removed to Red-bank, to be fixed as redouts, and form Lines of Communication to each and their flanks, and constitute other work at Fort Island if needfull in Lieu of s'd B. houses.

I am to Call on his Excellency this Morning to have his further Instructions, of which shall inform you.

Am your Ob^t Servt,

THOS. PROCTOR.

Directed,

To the Chairman in Council of Safety, Philadelphia.

John Connolly to Council, 1776.

December 23d, 1776.

Sir,

I am sorry to give you such repeated troubles, but my wretched condition will plead my apology; immured within a solitary room, & cutt off from every social intercourse with mankind, it must be acknowledged is a punishment, highly afflicting and scarcely tolerable to the most vigorous constitutions; but enfeebled as I am by constant disorder, & the mind participating of my bodily infirmity, has sunk into the deepest melancholly, & has reduced me to so deplorable a state, that words can but faintly communicate any adequate idea of my feelings. As a Prisoner I looked for restriction upon my personal liberty, but I can not imagine it was ever meant to extend to an entire deprivation of either life or health.

This building constructed upon principles of humanity, would

give me some relief was I allowed the privilege of walking in the day time, & I do assure you I shall attempt no advantage from such indulgence. Permit me to request the favor of you, to lay my request before the Board, & I trust every humane heart will agree with you, that there is nothing immoderate or exceptionable in my request.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, your most obedt,

JNO. CONNOLLY.

Directed,

To Thos. Wharton, Esq.

General Orders, 1776.

Head Quarters, 23d December, 1776.

All the troops in this City, both Continental & Militia, are to draw three day's provisions & Cook it immediately, they are always to keep that quantity ready dressed, so that they may be able to march at the shortest notice, that they may make no Complaint for want of Provisions.

Resolution of Council of Safety, 1776.

In Council of Safety.

Dec'r 24th, 1776.

Resolved,

That Mr. Robert Erwin, Waggon-master, do pay for every Waggon with four Horses, in service by the orders of this Council at the rate of thirty Shillings per Day on a proper Certificate of the Time of Entry being produced to him.

Extract from the Minutes.

G. BICKHAM, Secretary,

Pro. Tem.

Robert Morris to Council of Safety, 1776.

Philad'a, Decr 24th, 1776.

Gent^n,

This will be presented by Isaiah Robison, Esq., Commander of the Continental Brig^e Andrew Doria; he waits on you with Jones, Esq., late Commander of a British Sloop of War which Capt. Robison has lately made Prize of. Capt. Jones behaved very bravely during a long engagement and appears to be a man of honor, it is a pity such men are our Enemies, & when they fall into our hands they merit the best treatment that Prisoners can receive.

You will please to put this Gentleman on his parole, & assign the place where he must reside & extent of his priviledge ground, and I dare say he will faithfully keep the one, and comply with the other until exchanged. If Capt Robison carrys before you any of the other officers it will be for the same purpose.

I have the honor to remain Gent^n,

Your obed^t h'ble Servant,

ROB'T MORRIS.

Directed.

The Honorable Council of Safety, Pensylvania.

Extract of S. C. M's Letter, 1776.

Decr 24th, 1776.

Be not afraid, ye Tories shall not Triumph over us yet. We will yet have our day & make them Tremble. Do let me know what ye Council is doing. The Militia was promised a pair of Shoes & Stockings for each man that turn'd out, why are they not giving them? It would be worth more than 3 times as much money; they ought to have it, for upon their turning out has hitherto depended the Salvation of Philad^a. This is not a Random opinion, for as sure as there is a G—d in Heaven, the British Army wou'd have been in pos'sion of our City had it not been for the City Militia. The Militia call loudly for ye Councils fulfilling the promises of Shoes & Stockings, let them place themselves in their Situation in the depth of Winter, & they must, I trust, think Seriously of the matter.

—

Anoth^r.

20 Dec^r, 1776.

I am Sorry ye Congress were so precipitate in removing from Town, it has struck a damp on ye Spirits of many, & done much

hurt at this time. I hope the Council of Safety will not follow the Example, it is a most Critical time, & they must do their duty. All eyes are upon them, as they are ye only body to whom ye people can look up; they should take ye most effectual Steps to keep ye Militia in good humour, by Supplying them wth ye Comforts of life in this Inclement Season, & ought to consider them as people who have in general enjoyed the Conveniencies of life in as great a degree as themselves; too much cannot be done for them, for to them is owing that our City is not at this moment in ye Enemies possession. I believe ye Council have exerted themselves; nor do I mean to throw the least blame on them, but they must contiaue unremittedly to consider them as the main Object of their Attention.

Sam'l Hunter to Council of Safety, 1776.

Fort Augusta, 24th Decemb^r, 1776.

Sir,

Pursuant to the Resolutions of Congress for selecting one Company or more out of the several Battalions in the County Northumberland, there is a Company of Volunteers marched of this day out of my Battalion of Associators to Joine General Washington, who are all Armed and Accoutred in the Best manner I could, and they have Chose for their Captain Major John Lee, for their first Lieutenant Captain Hugh White, for their Second Lieutenant Thomas Gaskins, and for their Ensign Gustavus Ross, Who were all Elected by the Company to be their officers; there is several of the men wants Blankets, which Capt Lee will inform you off, as it was impossable for me to get them all Blankets here, being, a scarce article in these parts. I have impress'd several Guns, Blankets, and other Necessarys for the men, and has had them Appraised, which Captain Lee will give you a list of, that will be a Check on the Certificates I give the People for the Value of what they had Appraised; I have acquainted the Company that their Field Officers will be Appointed in Philadelphia, when all the Companys out of this County arrive there, as there was no such thing of doing it here in a Satisfactory manner, Be the Reason, the Companys Could not be all together at one time.

I am, S^r,

your most Obe^t Humble Servt,

SAM'L HUNTER.

Directed,

To David Rittenhouse, Esqr, in Council of Safety.

Fav^d by Capt Jno Lee.

Council of Safety to ———, 1776.

Council of Safety,
Philad^a, December, 25th, 1776.

Gentlemen,

The cause of Freedom and of America approaches to a Crisis, of which many of the People are ignorant and insensible of the impending calamities.

We have sent you a number of papers, which we request you to distribute as generally and expeditiously as possible, in hopes they will informe and animate them to do thire duty and step forth, otherwise they may shortly expect a plundering Enemy at their own doors.

By order of the Council.

I am your humble Servt,
THOS. WHARTON, Presid^t.

Maj. Thos. Proctor to Council of Safety, 1776.

Philadelphia, Decr 25th, 1776.

S^r,

Twice I rec^d the General's Instructions to prepare myself, and a party of Artillery under my Command to go with him into the Jersey with all possible Despatch in my Power.

Believing from the present Prospect of affairs you would Coinside with every reasonable Measure of the General's, have not Hesitated, but order'd such a Number of men as Could get ready for so short a Notice, and directed the Amunition and other Necessaries to be prepared this night, But on Inquiry, find such Requisite to be very Deficient.

I am, with Due Respect, Yours,
THOS. PROCTOR.

Decr 25th, 5 o'clock.

Directed,

To the President of the Hon'ble Council of Safety, Philadelphia.

Resolution of Council, 1776.

Resolved, That ——— be appointed to go Round the Citty and Liberty and quarter such Troops as are or may Come to this Citty, in houses belonging to the disefected Persons, and that each family are hereby Requested to make Room for as many Soilder as they

Can find Room for; and any person Refusing to Comply Shall be Deamed Inamical to our Cause, and Treated as Such.*

W. Lochry and Jno. Moore to Thos. Wharton, Pres't. Council of Safety, 1776.

Westmorel^d Co^ty, 26th Dec^r, 1776.

Sir,

By the removal of Coll. Mackay from the Kittaning, the fronteers of this County is laid open and exposed to the Mercy of a faithless, uncertain Savage Enemy, and we are Inform'd by Andrew McFarland, Esqr, who lives at the Kittaning, that he is much afraid that the Mingoes will plunder the Country, and that he will not think himself Safe if there is not a Company of Men Stationed there, and if he Removes, a number more of the Inhabitants will follow; the Kittaning is a post of Importance, and we think a few men Stationed there would awe the Indians, and perhaps prevent much mischief, and as we are not certain there is any legal Representatives of the People of this State now siting but the Council of Safety, we beg the favour of you to lay this letter before them, not doubting but they will take the mater into Consideration, and take such steps as the importance of it Requires.

We are, Sir,

Your most obedient hum^e Serv^ts,

W. LOCHRY,
JOHN MOORE.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President of the Council of Safety in Philadelphia.

Wm. Brown to Council of Safety, 1776.

Sir,

I some time agoe, in a letter to you, pray'd your Honorable Board to think of some Method of Cloathing the men under my Command, as I then foresaw, what is now come to pass, That for want of which they would be unfitt for Service, I have now between Thirty & Forty (of my best men) sick with Pluricies, Colds, &c., upwards of Twenty of them in different parts of the City, suffering for want of Doctors, &c. &c. Should you see proper to Order a House for an Hospittle

* This is a rough draught of a resolution on back of preceding letter; no date.

I would endeavour to Select them all together, when they might have the Doctor's attendence and other Necessaries more Regularly.

I am, Sir,

Your very humble Servt,

WILLIAM BROWN.

Philada, 26 Decemr, 1776.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President of the Honble Council of Safety for the State of Pennsylvania.

Extracts of Letters from Gen. Cadwaladhr, 1776.

Bristol, 26th Decr, 1776.

Gentlemen,

There was a general attack to be made last night. The river was impassable here, & we made the attempt at Dunks' Ferry, but found it impracticable to get over our Cannon, we returned this morng to Bristol, about four. I this moment have an account by Mr. McLane, (a man of veracity) that he was at Trenton Ferry this morning & heard a very heavy firing on the River & Penny Town Roads, that lead to Trenton—the heavy firing lasted about ¼ an Hour, & continued to moderate for about three Quarters. The Light Horse & Hessians were seen flying in great confusion towards Bordentown, but without Cannon or Waggons, so that the Enemy must have lost the whole, a party of our men intercepted about a Dozen Hessians in sight of our people on this side, & brought them to the Ferry & huzza'd. I have ordered the Boats from Dunks's, and shall pass as soon as possible—we can muster here, about 1800 men if the Expedition last night in the storm, does not thin our Ranks. Has General Putnam crossed, and with what Numbers—Pray, let me know, Every thing of this kind gives Confidence to the Troops. I have no doubt of the report, a heavy firing was heard at this place—an attempt was made to pass at or a little below Trenton Ferry, but could not get over, that would have made the Victory still more compleat.

Bristol, 26th Decr.

Gentlemen,

I wrote this morning to Gen. Washington, directed to Gen. Ewing at Trenton Ferry, who informs me that he cannot yet ascertain the particulars of this morning's action, one Waggon loaded with Arms was brought down to the Ferry (Hessian arms) and safe landed on

this shore, & six Hessians, we have taken 14 or 16 ℔ of Cannon, a considerable of Stores & Cloathing. The number of killed, wounded & prisoners is very considerable.

Indorsed,

Extract of Letters from General Cadwalader.

Resolution of Congress, 1776.

In Congress, Decem^r 27th, 1776.

Resolved, That the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania be Requested to Take the most Vigorous and speedy measures for punishing all such as shall Refuse Continental Currency, and that the General be Directed to give all necessary Aid to the Council of Safety, for carrying their measures on this subject into effectual Execution.

By order of Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, Presid^t.

Directed,

On Public Service. To the Hon^e the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia. John Hancock.

John Hancock, P. C. to Council of Safety, 1776.

Baltimore, Decem^r 27th, 1776.

Gentlemen,

The great Importance to the Welfare of these United States of supporting the Credit of the Continental Currency, will suggest the Propriety of the above Resolve, which I am commanded by Congress to transmit to you, and to request you will take Measures for an immediate Compliance therewith. I have wrote to the General to give you every necessary Assistance in carrying your Determinations on this Subject into effectual Execution.

I have the Honour to be, Gentlemen,

your most obed^t h'ble serv^t,

JOHN HANCOCK, Pres^t.

Directed,

On Public Service. To the Hon^e the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia. John Hancock.

Benj. Flowers to Council of Safety, 1776.

The Hon^e Council of Safety.

Gentlemen,

The General is extremely Sorry to Inform them that this morning when the Gallies were wanted they were all a Ground, he therefore begs, that when they return, they may be ordered to ly in whet Docks or other place, where they may be ready to execute any order they may receive.

BENJ. FLOWER,
Com^y Genl. of M^y Stores.

Head Quarters, Phil^a, 27 December, 1776.

Robert Morris to Council of Safety, 1776.

Philada. Decr 27th, 1776.

Gent^n,

Capt. Cooke, Commander of the Maryland Ship-of-War Defence, is the bearer of this Note, he came up with upwards of 70 men to assist in defence of this City, as the Gondolos are going on Service he offers to go in them as a reinforcement, & if need be at the place of action he and his men will assist the artillery. I doubt not this offer will be acceptable, & if so, the Council will give their officers suitable directions.

I have the honour to be Gent^n,
Your obed. serv^t,
ROBERT MORRIS.

Directed,
To the Hon'ble Council of Safety, Pennsylvania.

James Read to Council of Safety, 1776.

Sir,

I received from a man who came from the City to this Town Yesterday Evening, some copies of an Address of the Hon'ble Assembly to the Inhabitants of Pennsylvania; some of which I took Pains to distribute properly, immediately on coming to Hand, and the Rest shall be carefully sent abroad this morning. We have no

Committee at present; there has been an Election, but on the Return Day not a Sixth Part appeared, owing, 'tis thought, to the Cold. I have not a Clerk, or Man, or Boy, in my House, and am obliged, in Person, to go on every Errand about town, when Public Business calls. We have no Provision for Paying any one who goes on any Public Errands, than which nothing can be of more consequence, and for Want of which the Cause of America suffers much in this Quarter.

Last Night seven persons were brought from Northampton County to this town, by order of some Major; the Officer of the Guard who came with them, brought an *Original Letter*, written by you to the Committee of Northampton County, (which had never been delivered to Committee) directing them to cause Persons suspected to be inimical, &c., to be apprehended and sent to Lancaster, York, or Reading. Reading being the nearest Place, we, who have already more Prisoners, French and Scotch, than we have Men at Arms (old & young together) in this Place, shall have all the Tories that Northampton can find; whereby the Ruin of this Town is justly apprehended. Lancaster has Barracks, and neither that town, nor York, has any Prisoners in it. But, if the People of Northampton have their Choice of three Places, they will always send to the nearest to them. Thus Reading must be endangered, and, at best, burthened. Our Prison small; that of Lancaster large, and that Town three times as large as this. Pray, Sir, let these Things be immediately considered. We are distressed. The Militia from Northumberland disturb us by their Importunity for Salt; which, surely, we are not to provide, when there is such a scanty Portion in every Family.

We have heard that a Hospital is to be made in this place. Strange this! when we have not one House in Town unoccupied—many Families have come hither from Philadelphia. I need say no more on this Head. I am obliged to write in great Haste. I cannot, however, conclude without pressing you, Sir, to try to relieve us of these Tories and other Prisoners, and saying that hereafter it will be impossible to get a Waggon, or any Service done without ready Pay. The People who have hitherto done public Services are very importunate, & grow angry that they are not paid.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble servt,

JAMES READ.

Reading, December 27th, 1776.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, jun'r, Esqr, President of the Council of Safety, at Philadelphia.

Extract of a Letter from Col. Biddle, 1776.

Dated 27th Dec'r, 1776.

"We have returned with much honour from our Trenton expedition, having brought off about 750 Hessians, 1 Lt. Col., 2 Majors, 4 Captains, 15 Subalterns, 3 Standards, 6 Brass field Pieces, and near 1000 Stand of Arms.

We came on them by surpize at about 7 o'clock—their guard at the end of the town and their parties in town, gave a smart resistance for a while, and they passed up the Creek back of the Meeting House where they formed, and thought we should have had a smart engagement, but they were by that time near surrounded, & so push'd at all points that they surrendered with all their arms, &c.

Our officers and men behaved with most remarkable bravery, and by their activity and zeal they soon put a most honourable end to this very important affair. Indeed, I never could conceive that one spirit should so universally animate both officers and men to rush forward into action."

A true Copy from the original.

JONA'N MIFFLIN,
D. Q. M. G.

Clement Biddle to Council of Safety, 1776.

Head Quarters, Newtown,
28 Decem'r, 1776.

Sir,

His Excellency, General Washington, has commanded me to send forward the Prisoners taken at Trenton, to pass through Philadelphia to Lancaster, and I have sent them with a Guard under the conduct of Capt. Murray, (an Officer of this State lately released from New York,) with directions to furnish them Provisions and Quarters on the Road.

It will be necessary to have a Commissary of Prisoners of War to take the charge of them, and as the Honorable Congress have resolved that each State appoint one to furnish Provisions, have charge of them, w'th proper returns for their Security and Exchange; you will pardon me for hinting the necessity of such appointment. I have the pleasure to inform you that the Prisoners amount to near one thousand, that their Arms, six brass field pieces, Eight standards or Colours, and a number of Swords, Cartouch Boxes, taken in this happy Expedition, are safely arrived at and near this place. If your

Honorable Committee could by any means furnish Shoes & Stockings for our Troops, it will be a great relief.

I have by his Excellency's Command, requested the Committee of this County to Collect all they can find which the Inhabitants can spare, but the movement of our army prevents the sending any Officers on this Service, and it will certainly be more acceptable to the inhabitants to have them collected by some persons appointed by the Government of the State, and they shall be immediately paid for on the Delivery at Head Quarters.

I am with great Respect, your and the Council's most Obedient and

very Humble Serv't,

CLEMENT BIDDLE,

D. Qu'r M'r Gen'l.

Gen. St. Clair requests his Compliments to you.

I am not alone in assuring you that the Inhabitants of Jersey, of whom we had an opportunity of enquiring of the Behaviour of the Hessian Troops, declare that their Officers & Soldiers treated them in general with more Lenity, than those of the British Troops, w'ch Justice to our Prisoners, calls for an acknowledgement of, as false reports had been spread to the contrary.

Y'r mo. ob. v. h. s.,

C. B.

Directed.

On Public Service, to the Hon'ble Thomas Wharton, Esq., President of the Committee of Safety of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Pat'k Duffey to Col. Proctor, 1776.

McConkey's Ferry, 28th Dec'r, 1776.

Sir,

I have the pleasure of informing you that I have yesterday arrived from Trenton, after a very fataguing (though successfull) engagement, in which can assure you, the Artillery got applause. I had the Honour of being detach'd up the Main Street in front of the Savages, without any other piece, and sustained the fire of Several gunns from the Houses on each side, without the least loss, must attribute my protection to the hand of Providence; we made Pri-

soners of about 900, together with the number killed, which I cannot exactly ascertain, but we took 6 brass field pieces and a number of small arms, all which has been safely carried off.

The men are very much Nonplus'd for Shoes & Watch Coats, hope you may, if possible, send them, with a copy of the pay bill I left you last, as I have paid but few of the men more than 5 Dollars each, and has but a trifle of money left. I paid Toomey 18-9 cash, and 1 pair of Shoes he had, all which amount to 33-9. Capt. Forrest would be glad you'd send the drum and a fifer if you can. Please to let me know if any thing has been done respecting Mr. Irvine's affair; he promised to return in two or three days, however, I look upon him not to act like a gentleman, which is farr the opinion I had of him. Conclude with Compliments to your Brother, wishing him joy in his deliverance.

Y'r Very obedient Servant,

PAT. DUFFEY.

P. S.—Comp'ts to Capt. Courtney & Mr. Turnbull, am glad to hear of y'r Promotion to Colonell.

Directed,

To Colloned Thomas Proctor, of Artillery, Philadelphia.

THOMAS FORREST TO COL. PROCTOR, 1776.

McConkey's Ferry, 29th Dec'r, 1776.

Sir,

Am happy in acquainting you that we have return'd from Trenton after defeating the Brass Caps and Crous coups, and am now under marching orders on an other Expedition over the river, hope it may prove as Successfull as the last; we have taken, exclusive of what were not able to march off, 946, with a Compleat band of Musick, the number kill'd uncertain. The men are not able to move for want of Shoes and Watch Coats, which I expect you'll forward by bearer immediately, with Gunn Screws, and the Regimental Coats, for such as has been before mentioned. Mr. Irvine has behaved in so Infamous a manner here, in receiving money from us and the men, in order to bring Necessary's from Town, that I think him unworthy a Commission in the Service. Mr. McConnell has passed with me as an Officer, and has behaved as such, therefore, as I absolutely stand in need of one, w^d be glad you'd dispatch him or Mr

Turnbull with the residue of my Men and Drum, that is, the men who left me since I have been out.

Conclude y'r Ob't Servant,

THOMAS FORREST.

Comp^s of Brother Officers to Mr. Courtney and Turnbull.

Directed,

To Collonel Proctor, of Artillery, Philadelphia.

JOSEPH PENNELL TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1776.

Bristol, 29th Dec'r, 1776.

Sir,

I am ordered by General Mifflin to inform you that there is a considerable Quantity of Bar Iron in a Store on Arch Street Wharf, which he desire you will have secured for the use of the States—it belongs to Tench Coxe.

I am, Sir,

Your H'ble Servant,

JOS. PENNELL, A. Q. M. G.

An Order for the above purpose sent to General Putnam, December 30th, 1776.

Directed,

The Honourable Major General Putnam, Head Quarters, Philadelphia.

WM. THORNE TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1776.

Dec'r 30th, 1776.

To the Honorable Council of Safety.

Gentlemen,

It is with the utmost Reluctance we are constrained to apply to you in behalf of the great Numbers of distress'd Sick Soldiers who fall under the Notice of this department, particularly with respect to wood, the difficulty is this, the numbers of Sick that daily come in Suddenly upon us, and require immediate assistance, and as all returns for Wood must be made to the Barrack Master General, it is per-

haps one, two, or three days before they can be supplied, in which Case many must unavoidably Perish. We therefore pray your advice how we may conduct ourselves in this particular, and in some other important affairs.

Signed by Order of the Committee of Sick.

WM. THORNE.

Henry Haller to Council of Safety, 1776.

Reading, Dec. ye 30th, 1776.

Honored Sir,

Having left ye Camp at Cerral's Ferry, ye 16th Instant, I think it my duty to inform you that Greatest Number of the men of my Batta^n^, Deserted on the 13th & 14th Instant, a thing that might in my opinion have been prevented had the officers taken proper steps; but some of them were as willing as they Privats, to break up the Battalion, tuck no pains to git their men; and this Conduct incouraged others; since that I have been here waiding to Gead the Pay Rolls that money might be Drawen to pay of ther men that they might be incouraged to Re Enter on the Service; But same of the Capt^ns^ Gives me all the delay in their power, there for, I pray your adtention in this mater, I think if a pay Master was ordered up here to pay of the Battal^n^, it would have a good effect.

There is a Report that the pay of offeciers has been Raised should this be the Case in the Continental, I should be Glad to know wether or why not the same be paid to us, who have been immediately on the sathe service, and have been promised the same pay as the Continental Troops.

Mr. Dundas, of this Town, who is at present weakly, having Latly Recovert some what from an sickness, has given me his word of Honor that he will appear when ever your Honorable Board shall sent for him, and that he in the main time Looks upon him self, as a prisoner.

I should be glad to have an answer by the Bearrer, Capt. Shaffer, if Conveneant.

I am, Sir,

Your Humble Servt,

HENRY HALLER.

Directed,

To Mr. Thomas Wharton; Junr,

Pres^t^ of the Council of Savety at Philada.

Clement Biddle to Council of Safety, 1776.

Sir:

Inclosed is Copy of the Parole, signed by the Hessian Officers who are forwarded by Command of His Excellency, General Washington to Philadelphia, to be sent to Lancaster or such other place as you shall think proper to direct.

I am with much Respect,
Your mo. Obedient,
& very hum^l Servt,
CLEMENT BIDDLE,
D. Qr. Mr Genl.

Newtown, Dec. 30, 1776.

Colonel Weedon, a worthy brave Officer, has undertaken to Conduct the Officers to Philadelphia.

Directed,
To the Honorable the Council of Safety, Philadelphia.

Obligation of W. Smith, &c., 1776.

In Council of Safety.

Phila., Decr 13th, 1776.

Resolved,

That William Smith Broker, Samuel Jefferies, Joseph Stansbury, David Shoemaker & Joel Zane, be discharged from the Custody of Mr. Robt Jewell, conditionally, That they confine themselves to their own dwelling houses, untill enlarged by the authority presiding in this State, & that they will hold no correspondence with, nor give any Intelligence to the Enemies of the United States of America, nor do any act or thing directly or indirectly, that will be any ways prejudicial to this State, or any of the United States of America.

We acknowledge ourselves bound to observe the above conditions.

Wm. Smith,
Broker.
Saml Jeffrys,
Jos. Stansbury,
David Shoemaker,
Joel Zane,
R. Vaux.

* See p. 99; and Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 43.

James Ewing to Council of Safety, 1776.

Sir,

By Order of his Excellency General Washington, I have sent down certain Hessian Prisoners, to be disposed of, as the Committee of Safety may direct.

A List of their Names is inclosed.

JAMES EWING.

Trenton Falls,
Dec'r 30th, 1776.

Directed,

Thomas Wharton, Jun'r, Esq.,
President of the Council of Safety, Philadelphia.

Address of Council of Safety, 1776.

In Council of Safety, Decem. 31, 1776.

To the Public:

There arrived yesterday in this City near one thousand Hessian prisoners, taken by his Excellency, Gen'l Washington, in his late fortunate and successful Expedition to New Jersey. The General has recommended to this Council to provide suitable Quarters for them, and it is his earnest wish that they may be well treated, and have such principles instilled into them, whilst they remain prisoners, that when they return on being exchanged, they may fully open the Eyes of their Countrymen in the service of the king of Great Britain, who at present are not a little jealous of their English fellow soldiers.

These miserable creatures now justly excite our Compassion. They have no Enmity with us. According to the arbitrary customs of the tyrannical German Princes, they were dragg'd from their native Country and sold to a foreign Monarch, without either consulting their inclinations or informing them of the place they were destined for, or the Enemy they were to contend with. Their pay a mere pittance, they were necessitated and encouraged to plunder. It is therefore nothing strange that they have been guilty of great irregularities, tho' inferior to the brutal behaviour of the British Troops. But from the moment they are rescued from the authority of the British Officers, we ought no longer to regard them as our Enemies, at least whilst their Conduct will Justifie our favourable opinion. 'Tis Britain alone that is our Enemy; all the rest of

Europe is from the strongest motives interested in our favour. 'Tis the Officers and Troops of Britain only, that are heartily engaged in this unjust war against us, from rancour, pride and ambition, and notwithstanding the pains they have taken to prejudice the Germans against us, we hope they will find it impossible to prevail on them much longer to imbrue their hands in the blood of the Americans, many of whom are their Countrymen. The most favorable opportunity now offers to weaken the force of our Enemies, by making their Auxillaries our friends, and we earnestly entreat you to embrace it by suppressing any resentment that might naturally arise on recollecting their late hostility, and treating the much injured and deceived Hessians now in our power in the most friendly manner, as a people we would wish to unite with ourselves in improving the fertile forrests of America, extending its manufacture & Commerce, and maintaining its Liberty and independency against all attacks of forreign & Arbitrary Power.

Resolutions of Council of Safety, 1776.

In Council of Safety, December ye 31st, 1776.

In consequence of the foregoing Resolve* of Congress, & the Intelligence receiv'd from several parts of this State, that the Disaffected and Enemies to the United States of America are practising the most dangerous Schemes to Destroy the Credit of the paper Money Issued under the Authority of Congress, which wicked & mischievous practices are likely to be attended with pernicious Consequences, unless there be a vigorous exertion of the Power invested in us to put a Stop to such Traiterous practices, Therefore,

Resolved, that any person who from and after the publication of this resolve shall refuse to take Continental currency in payment of any Debt or contract whatsoever, or for any goods or Commodity offered for sale, or shall ask a greater price for any Commodity in such Continental Currency than in any other kind of Money or Specie, & on full proof made thereof to any three Members of any County Committee or any two field Officers of Militia of this State, shall for the first Offence be considered as a Dangerous Member of Society, & forfeit the goods or debt contracted for to the person who contracted for the same, & shall moreover be subject to a penalty of £5, for all contracts for & under that sum; & for all Contracts above that sum shall forfeit to the full Amount of said Debt or Contract, one fourth of all such forfeitures to be for the use of the Informer, & the remaining Three fourths to the use of this State, to be paid to the Committee of the County where the forfeiture is incurred, & to be Levied Immediately by the Direction & Authority of the said Committee or Field Officer; and For the second offence they shall

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI, p. 70.

be subject to the Aforemention'd penalties, & be banish'd this State to such place and in such manner as this Council shall direct.—Nevertheless if any person shall think himself or her aggriev'd by the Determination of any of the said Committee or Field Officers, he shall be allow'd an appeal to this Council, provided the said Appeal be made within Six weeks after such Determination.

Resolved, That all persons whose Shops or Warehouses have been heretofore shut up, & who have been restrain'd from carrying on a Commercial Intercourse with the Inhabitants of this State for refusing Continental Money, shall be releas'd from such restraint, & their Shops or Warehouses open'd, & that all persons who are in Confinement for the same offence, be Immediately Discharg'd from their Confinement, but are hereafter to be subject to the above Resolution.

Col. John Bayard to Andrew Hodge, 1776.

Trenton, 2 o'clock, Saturday.

Dr Sir,

I got here abot 11 o'clock, by Express, from the General at Princetown; the Enemy are advancing, & it is expected they will be there to-night. Genl How is at the head of the Army, & they are coming in two Columns. We are removing the Stores across the River & purposing making a Stand there.

Pray Send for Lank immediately, and remove the Goods from my house to the Country. You will hear from me to-morrow.

I am yrs,

JNO. BAYARD.

Directed.

To Mr. Andw Hodge, Mercht, Philada.

To be left at Coffee House ℔ Express.

Lewis Nicola to Owen Biddle, 1776.

Sr,

I am to inform you that about an hour after I had the pleasure of seeing you last night, the men called on to mount Guard at the Barracks assembled, & Mr. Towers returned to the workhouse & gave them arms, so that the guard was mounted about 10 o'clock.

As we find much difficulty often in getting men for guard, & are sometimes obliged to mount them incompleat, I wish the Council would devise some method of enforcing obedience to orders.

I request you will inform the Council of John McCluer's case, for which purpose I send you inclosed the report made to me.

There is another enormity sometimes committed by the City guards, which I am persuaded the Council will think deserves exemplary punishment. The case is, that some Sentries at the bridge extort money from passengers. As soon as I had notice of this I gave out orders that the officers commanding the bridge guard should confine every person guilty of this crime, & when the guard dismounted, lodge him in the Statehouse Guard, & make a report thereof; I also acquainted the General, who ordered that the officers of that guard should tye up any person guilty of this offence & give him thirty lashes; I obeyed, but dout the efficacy of the remedy, as I cannot think one citizen will readily treat another in this manner.

The money the Council gave me to buy firing for the guards & other contingencies being almost expended, I must trouble the Gentlemen for a supply; as I have £8 13 to pay for the last sweeping the barrack chimneys, & also a month's candles to pay for, £50 will, I think, be necessary.

I hope you'll excuse the liberty I take in troubling you with this, but I conceive writing may be more convenient to the Council than a personal application, which I may make at an improper time, which I flatter myself will serve for an apology, & that you'll permit me to assure you that I am.

Sr, Your most obedt Servt,

LEWIS NICOLA.

December 31st, 1776.

I intended to have sent this to the Council this morning, but was so long detained at the General's it was not in my power. I beg leave to trouble you with the inclosed, as I think it proper the Council should be informed of when time will permit.

Directed.

To Owen Biddle, Esqr.

John Piper to Committee of Safety, 1776.

Shippensburg, 31st Decr, 1776.

Gentlemn,

I would Beg Leave to Enform you that the Resolves of Congrass & Committee of Safety for this State, of the 22 Nor, Directed to the Commanding officers of the Different Batt. of Beadford County, I have had the Honour of Recaveing, Requiring att Least one Company of Vallenteers out of Each Batt. to march & Joyne General Washington, I have in Consequence of sd orders calld uppon Each Capt to turn out of his Company his quoto, in order to Compleate

the said Company, a number of which is now upon their March; the Enclemency of the Wether & Depth of the Snow in this Mountainous Country, Render it very hard to Assemble the Different Partys into one body, we therefore give Each Capt orders to march his Party the Nighest & Best way to Phª, & there to wait till farther orders; so that I hope, Gentª, youl take propper Notice of Each Party as they Com, & give them orders. I have Likewise got Entiligence Since I Left home, that the officers of the Other Batt. of Bedford are Ordered to give the Militia ten Dollars Advance, But as I have Not Seed any of the Gentª Since their orders Com up, would be glad to know where I might be fornished with Cash for that Porpose; I Beg Lave to Refare to the Berer for forther Perticulars, & am, Gentª, with Grate Esteem,

Your moust Obedant &
Very Humble Servant,
JOHN PIPER.

Directed—(On the Sarvise of the United States.)

To the Committee of Safety for the State of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia.

☞ favour of Mr. Robert Elliot.

COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO ———, 1776.

In Council of Safety,
Philadelphia, Decr 31st, 1776.

Gentlemen,

Your Friendly and humane exertions to provide Waggons to remove the Inhabitants of this City and their Effects, agreeable to the request of this Council, deserves our most grateful acknowledgements, and we are impressed with a due sense thereof. But as our Arms by the Blessing of God has been attended with an unexpected success, and opens a more happy prospect to the Friends of America, which makes it unnecessary to remove any more Stores or Effects at this time but what can be removed by the Waggons which will unavoidably be here, therefore we shall have no present occasion for any more from your County; you will please to return our thanks to those Waggoners who are upon their way down; dismiss them from our Service, and pay them what you think reasonable for the time they had been from home.

Money shall be sent you for that purpose; we shall depend upon your Justice and Oeconomy in this Matter.

With the Compliments of the Season and Congratulations for the late victory, we conclude

Your most Humble Servants.

By order of the Council.

Committee of Yorktown to Council of Safety, 1776.

Gentlemen,

In these times of Difficulty, several Gentlemen have exerted themselves much in the Grand Cause. Several Militia Companys have marched, more will march from this County, so as in the whole to compose at least a pretty good Battalion.

The Gentlemen who deserve most from the publick are, David Jameson, Hugh Denwoody, Charles Lukens, and Mr. George Eichelberger. They have been exceeding useful, as most of the Companys who marched have chose their Officers, pro Tempore; an arrangement will be necessary, as to Field officers. We propose David Jameson, Col., Hugh Denwoody, Lt. Colonel, Charles Lukens, Major, & George Eichelberger, Quarter-Master of the York County Militia who now march; it will be doing Justice to merit, to make the appointm^{t}, and we make no Doubt, will be done by your Board.

We congratulate you on the Success of the American Arms at Trenton, and are,

With great Respect,

Your most Hum^{l} Serv^{ts},

By Order of the Committee,

WM. LEAS, Chairman.

York Town, the 31st Decem'r, 1776.

Directed,

To the Honourable the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania.

Joseph Reed, Adj. Gen., to Council of Safety, 1776.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by his Excell'y, to send to you Charles Harrison & Peter Campbell, Inhabitants of Trenton who have taken Commisions or are appointed to such as Captains in a New Regiment proposed to be raised under Isaac Allen, for the King's Service. Also, Moses Holt, a Waggon Master & John Bonnet & William Wyser, two Labourers or Waggoners imported with the Troops. The General is of Opinion that the Officers should be closely confined.

The late Adventure of our Philada. Light Horse, has inspired a spirit of Enterprize which his Excell^{y} would encourage, & as the

Caps of the Dragoons taken, may on some occassion be made good Use of, he requests you would send up to Capt. Morris all the Caps you can collect which have been taken. No Notice to be taken of it abroad, but the Caps to be pack'd up, as there can be little Doubt but their first attempt with these Caps will effectually deceive.

I am Obedt & respectfully,

Gents, Your very Hble Serv.,

JOS. REED,

Adj. Gen.

Trenton,
Jan. 1, 1776. } [1777.]

I am also ordered to represent to you, the Conduct of Major Bush of the Flying Camp, who left the army contrary to order & refused to obey the Orders of his Superior Officer in marching towards the Enemy. The General ordered him under arrest, but he escaped; the inclosed Affidavit will give you more particulars.

Major Bush lives near Chesnut Hill, above German Town.

Directed,

To the Hon. the Council of Safety, of Philada.

Henry Fisher to Council of Safety, 1777.

Lewistown, Jan. 1st, 1777.

Gentlemen,

This will be handed to you by Captn Daniel Murphy, who I gave the command of the armed Barge to, upon her first coming down here, and has behav'd very well in that Station, as it now appears to me that she is in some danger of being either taken from us or burnt, is the Reason of my sending her up to you, and as Mr. Murphy has only my word for his Wages, I must beg that you will amply satisfy him, as he has devoted himself to the Service, & been of real advantage to your Trade.

He brings up with him a number of Priseners out of different Vessels taken by his Majesty's Pyrates who were put on Shore here last Night in great Distress. If you think proper to send the Barge back, please to give Captn Murphy a Commission with orders to man her properly, and any service that I can render, shall not be wanting on my side

Capt. Hallock can inform you something of a very extraordinary Nature respecting our Torys here.

I am in haste, Gentlemen,

your hum^l Servt,

HENRY FISHER.

Directed.

To the Honorable Council of Safety, Philadelphia.

☞ Favor of Captn Murphy.

J. OKELY TO JNO. BIDDLE, 1777.

Esteemed Friend,

Having it in Charge from General Gates, as he pass'd thro' Bethlehem, to assist in forwarding the Bearer hereof (an Indian from Lorette in Canada, of the Huron Tribe, for whom the General express'd great Kindness & Regard) to him either in Baltimore or Philad^a: I cast in my Mind to whom I co^d send him so as best to answer that Intention, and from the Knowledge I have of your Benevolent Disposition & general acquaintance, I presumed Thou or thy sons Owen or Clement (on whose Friendship I greatly rely) would willingly undertake the Task. Sho^d the General be in Town he will directly take him & defray any Expence you may be at—If in Baltimore, on your sending him word, he will, no Doubt, give the necessary Orders respecting his being sent on.

Excuse the Trouble my Confidence has led me to give thee in this matter and believe me to be in every acceptable Service,

Thy ready & assured ffr^d.

J. OKELY.

Beth: January, 1777.

PS. As the Indian speaks French altogether, co^d wish he might be introduced to Anthony Benezet & his brother Daniel, to whom, seeing his Deportm^t & Behavior is unexceptionable, he can't, I think, be disagreeable. Isaac Melchior, I conceive must have some Knowledge of him.

Directed,

To Mr. John Biddle, at the Indian King, in Market Street, Philad^a.

☞ Indian John Vincent.

Capt. John Lacey, Jr., to Council of Safety, 1777.

To the Honourable the Council of Safety for the State of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen,

I here insert the ill treatment I have received from Colonel Wayne, and have just cause to complain, that I have not had Reasonable satisfaction. Last April, I was ordered from New York to Pennsylvania, by Colonel Wayne, to Settle some Affairs respecting my Company; during my Absence, my Company, (which was then Armed through my own Industry) was ordered to March for Canada, under the Command of a Younger Captain, whose Men was left without Arms. On my return to New York, I was detained several Days by Lieutenant Col. Johnston, and then through him, I received Orders of General Green, to follow my Company, which I overtook on Lake Champlain, and then I expected to take the Command—but was greatly disappointed, when at St. Johns, I received the following order.

"St Johns, June, ye 2^d, 1776."

"It is Colonel Wayne's Orders, that Captain Moore continues to Command Captain Lacey's Company, until such time as Captain Moore's Arrive, the Colonel at the same time, disapproves of Captain Laceys Conduct in proceeding without Capt. Moore's People, which was contrary to Orders, yet he will pass it over with Impunity, as he is Conscious that Captain Lacey was only Anxious to be at the Field of Action, and did not intentionally disobey Commands. He therefore requests Captain Lacey to act as a Volunteer, continuing his Rank until the arrival of Captain Moore's Company."

And upon the receipt of this, I waited on the Colonel, to know his Reasons, for issuing this order; he gave me no other satisfaction, but said, it was his Order and must be obeyed. Thus was my Company given to a Younger Officer, and I present, when we came to the River Sorrel, waited on General Sullivan, who promised me Redress. But through the multiplicity of Business, it was Overlooked, and on our arrival at Ticonderoga, we were Joined by the rest of the Regiment, and I received the following.

"Ticonderoga, July, ye 13th: 1776."

Captain Lacey,

Sir.

You are immediately to take the command of your Company, and to appear with them on the Parade at half past 7 o'clock this morning.

An^t. Wayne, Colo."

Notwithstanding the Chagrin I felt, these Orders, through the Advice and Perswasion of my Friends I obeyed; still having hopes of accomodating Matters with Colonel Wayne, until the eleventh day of September, when the Adjutant came to me with the following order.

"Sir you will put Captain Lacey in arrest for disobedience of Orders, he is not to leave his Tent.

Anth. Wayne, Col."

"To Adjutant Ryan."

In this manner was kept for two Days when he sent and released me without trial. I have now served out the Campain, which I was determined to do, for the Sake of my Country, and that alone induced me to enter into the Army. And I do now for the Reasons above mentioned, resign my Duty in the Service.

I am, Gentlemen, with the greatest Respect,
Your most obedient
humble Servant
JOHN LACEY, Junior,
Captain, 4 P. B.

Philad^a. January 2^d. 1777.

Indorsed.

Petition of John Lacey.*

Peter De Haven to Council of Safety, 1777.

French Crick, Janur^y. 3, 1777.

Sir,

We have Got Ninteen Men at work in the Gun Way, and I am in hopes Whe shall be Able in a short Time to Repair A Great Maney arms, & make som New ones, our Smith Shops & other Building are in Prety good order by the industry of Col. Dewese, & Capt. Badly, the Barricks Will be finnished in A short Time if Col. Dewese, can Get Bordes, as they are very scarse heare, and they come very high to hall them from Philad., Plese to Send by the Barer, John Pugh, Five Hundred Pound for Wee are Quite out of money to Procure Provisions an pay our Men. No more at Present but I remain your Humble Servant.

PETER DEHAVEN.

Directed,

To David Rittenhouse, Vice President, Philad^a.

℞ Fav^r. M^r. John Pugh.

* A very interesting correspondence of Genl. Lacey in 1777–8, 1781, will be found in my Register of Penna., Vol. III, p. 205, &c.

JAMES TILGHMAN TO COUNCIL &c., 1777.

To the honorable the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen,

The Proprietaries of Pennsylvania, ever since the foundation of the City of Philadelphia, have had and claimed a Right to the ungranted woods on the Common. They have disposed of the wood from time to time as they saw proper, caused avenues occasionally to be cut thro' them, and exercised other acts of ownership without the least interruption. And have always had a person, appointed by themselves, to take care of the woods. In consequence of this Right and the constant exercise of it, the Present acting Proprietor, some short time ago, gave liberty to the overseers of the City to cut two hundred Cord of wood for the Poor out of that Part of the Common called the Center Woods to the westward of the Broad Street.

When General Putnams Advertisement for cutting a quantity of wood for the Soldiery out of the woods near the City appeared, I advised the overseers to request the Council of Safety to inform General Putnam of the Charity act, and explain the matter to him in order to prevent any Obstruction which might arise to the Charitable intention of the Proprietor. And, I spoke to the General myself who had very reasonable Ideas of the matter, and was pleased to assure me he would give no opposition to the Charity, but that he must have wood cut for the Soldiery. Soon after this the overseers brought me your Honors order of the 1st of this month, which, by the terms of it, seems to imply an assumed Right in your Honors to dispose of the Wood on the Commons, as it has no reference to the Proprietary bounty, and is for a smaller quantity than the proprietor proposed to give. I would therefore request the favor of an Explanation. If the order be intended to promote the Execution of the Proprietors benevolence, I have nothing further to say, But if your Honors do really assume the Right of disposing of the Wood on the Common, I must beg leave on behalf of the Proprietors (whose Secretary I have the honor to be), to object to any such right, and to request that your Honors will be so just as to enter this Representation (which in justice to the Proprietors I thought it my duty to make) on the Records of your proceedings, in order to prevent any prejudicial influences which hereafter might be drawn from a silent acquiescence of the Proprietors and their agents. And this request I flatter myself will not be thought unreasonable.

I am,

yr honors,

Most obt servant,

JAMES TILGHMAN.

Philadelphia,
January 3d, 1777.

Order of Council of Safety, 1777.

In Council of Safety, Philad[a], January 4th, 1777.

You are to proceed immediately up the Delaware as far as Cornell's Ferry, and procure all the Intelligence respecting the State, numbers, movements, or Condition of the Enemy, if any be in that Neighbourhood, which you possibly can, and on procuring any such Intelligence you are forthwith to return with it to general Putnam at Bristol, and take Directions from him.

Lord Stirling to ———, 1777.

Newtown, Jan[a] 4th, 1777.

Sir,

I have not yet been able to learn the particulars of General Washingtons last Expedition into New Jersey. But he Certainly has gained some Considerable advantage, the 17th & 55th Regiments were compleatly routed near Prince Town, the 40th which was left in the Colledge 'tis probable were either taken prisoners or fled to Brunswick. Gen[l] Washingtons army passed thro' Prince Town about nine o'clock A. M , and the Enemy's army arrived there about 2 o'clo' P. M., from Trenton. Our people took about 20 Waggon loads of Baggage belonging to the latter, which must greatly distress them. I was Ill with the Rheumatism before our first expedition to Trentown, but the fatigue & hardships I endured for forty hours in the worst weather I ever saw—rendered me unfit for further duty in the field, Gen[l] Washington therefore placed me here to do the best I could to secure the ferries & upper part of the Country against any Surprise or to pass above. I will do the best I can, with the few I have to Command.

Thomas Watson a man of very good Caracter, has made my heart bleed for him; he has refused the Continental Money for Hay Necessary for the Subsistence of our troops, I confined him, he is a good man by all account; I have relaced him, I have suffered him on his parol to go & abide with his family; 'till your further order I do not like to meddle with these Civil matters & for God Sake take them of my Shoulders.

I have a Number of prisoners from the Enemys Army pouring in upon me, (thank God) but tell me what I am to do with them, there is no Room for them here, I wish we may have as many more as will puzele you what to do with, this is the first line I have been able to scrawl since I passed the Delaware last.

Most respectfully, yours,

STIRLING.

Col. Brodhead to Owen Biddle, 1777.

Reading, 4th Jany. 1777.

Dear Sir,

I should have been at Philad^a before the time limited by your Honble Board for my Return, but Genl Mifflins sudden recal to the army occasioned his laying his Commands on me to attend the meeting of the Inhabitants at Lebanon. I was also commanded by him on my return from thence to take a Comp^y of the Northumberland Militia then at this place, and with them apprehend some of the disaffected, compell some of the Militia of this County, who has refused, to march, which I have done, and believe the remainder to be so much alarmed that few will think of staying at home. I intend, however, to wait a day or two longer to see how they will behave and then proceed to Philad^a. I hope that before this reaches you some measures have been taken for the recruiting the fourth Batallion to its full Compliment. I congratulate you on the late Christmas Box given the Hessians.

And am your most,

Hble Servt

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

Directed,

Owen Biddle, Esquire, Philadelphia.

Adam Hubley, Jr., to his Brother, 1777.

Bordentown, Jan'y 4th, 1777.

My Dear Brother,

I am just arrived with Major Mifflin from an Expedition in the lower parts of the Jerseys, a place call'd Monmouth Court House. We arrived there Thursday evening, we were informed of a party of men consisting about 200, under the command of Col. Morris. We then had our party (120 in number) formed in proper order, and intended to attack them in town, about half an hour before night, Col. Morris, it seems, got accounts of our arrival, had his men drawn up and baggage loaded in order to move off for Middleton, a town about 18 miles below the Court House, they pushed off from town, and got off about half a mile, within sight of us. We immediately push'd after them, when they made a halt, we came up, about a Quarter of an hour before night, when we engaged them, and they stood us about 8 minutes, a very heavy fire was kept up on both sides during that time. The enemy at last gave way, and retreated very

precipitately. At this time it was quite dark, and we could not see what loss the enemy sustain'd, on our side we had none kill'd. We marched from the field to the town and lodged there that night, the next morning we sent a party out to the field we had engag'd in, they brought four dead bodies in, which we had buried. We took during the engagement 23 prisoners, wh we brought to this place. We also took from the enemy 7 waggon loads of stores, &c., and 12 horses. I shall set off for Burlington this day to meet Col. Penrose, who commanded there.

Various will be the accounts of the movements of our Army, this you may dispend on is as nearly the state of it as possible. After our people engag'd the British troops at Trenton, after a very severe engagement we retreated from Trenton and took round towards Princetown. This retreat was ordered on purpose, which has since proved to be good Generalship, where our people took between 5 and 600 prisoners, they had a severe engagement there, and made the English Army retreat very precipitately. They have taken all their stores, &c., to a very great Amount. Our Army has now removed from thence to Brunswick, where the English have a very great store of every thing, which before now is in our hands. General Howe with his main Body is now between us, and in all probability must fall into our hands. The enemy had a vast number killed at Princetown. Our Philadelphia Associators behav'd like brave soldiers on this occasion, they fought the enemy for some considerable time, regular in platoon fires, and repulsed them twice. I think I shall have the pleasure of giving you a very good Account of our Army in a few days.

A number of our Philadelphia Associators fell on this occasion.

I am, in haste,

Yrs Affectionately,

ADAM HUBLEY, Junr.

Copy.

Col. Coats to Council of Safety, 1777.

Sir,

I have just heard from Burlington that General Washington is in possession of Princetown, and has taken seven hundred prisoners, with Six pieces of Cannon, there is a Flying report that General Howe is taken, the above Account Comes from Col. Penrose, who is at Burlington. Mr. Crispin has been in town several Days, & is much wanted here, shall be much oblidged to you to send him on. The Philadelphia Militia Behav'd Like Heroes, and press the Enemy so

Close that they where at Bagonets Points, it is said General Stevens is amongst the Slain.

I remain, Sir,
Your Humble Servant,
WM. COATS,
Lieut. Col. 1st Batt^n.

Bristol, Jan. 4th, 1777.

Directed,
To Mr. Thomas Wharton, President of the Council of Safety, in Philadelphia.

Gen. Cadwalader to Council of Safety, 1777.

Pluckemin, 5 Jan'y 1777.

Gent^n,

I wrote to you to-day by way of Bristol, but as Capt. Henry goes directly to Philadelphia, I beg leave to repeat what I wrote for in that Letter. The Militia (of the whole Army) have had very severe duty since they have been in the Service, and are in want of many Necessaries, not to be had in this Country. The following is a list of articles, immediately wanted, to enable them to keep the Field, viz:

300 ℔^r Shoes & Stock^ns, 200 Shirts, 200 knapsacks, 200 Blankets.

The articles will appease the murmurs of the Militia, and enduce them to remain in the Service till the Enemy have left this State, which they seem in haste to do, and in great Confusion. I beg you will direct the above articles to me at Morris Town, in this State, and order some Careful person to come all the way with them, and see them safely delivered, and if we should have left that Post, let him be ordered to proceed till he finds us.

I am, Gent^n,
Your most ob^t Servt,
JOHN CADWALADER.

Directed,
To the hon'ble The Council of Safety, Philadelphia.
Capt. Henry.

Gen'l Cadwalader to Council of Safety 1777.

Pluckimin 5th Jan'y, 1777

Gentlemen :—

Our Militia are in great Distress: Let me beg of you, again, to forward the shoes and stock'gs I sent for when at Crosswix—about 600 ℔r of Shoes & Stock'gs, 200 Blankets—200 Shirts—200 short or long Jackets, if to be had—These articles are not to be had here & the Militia must return unless immediatly supplyed—I have not time to inform you of our Successes—300 prisoners were taken at Prince Town by the different Parties who pursued & those taken in the Town—The Enemy have all left Brunswic &, I have no doubt, will leave this State in a few days—I beg you will send a carefull person with the above articles to Morris Town, with the utmost Dispatch—but do not direct it to any Qr. Master or we shall be disappointed—Be pleased to direct to me.

I am Gent. with great Respect

Your most obt. Servt.

JOHN CADWALADER.

Brig. Gen.

Directed,

To The Honble the Council of Safety, Philadr.

John Morris Jr. to Council of Safety 1777.

Bristol Jan'y 5th 1776, [7.]

Sir,

I rec'd your Favour of the 4th Inst. last night about 11 O'Clock, and in the name of your suffering Soldiery thank you for your kind Notice of them. A dozen Bushels I have ordered to be left here under the Care of the Doctor for the use of the sick & wounded—and the Remr. have ordered over to Burlington there to be stored till the Baggage moves forward: For at present nobody knows where the army is for a Certainty,—tho' by all the Intelligence we can procure from stragglers they are between Princeton & Brunswick—The Brigade of Pennsylva I have no doubt arrived at the latter place yesterday morning, where they were to be met by Genl. Heath.

I am just setting off for Burlington, must therefore conclude.

I am Yr. most Obedt.

& very hble Servt.

JOHN MORRIS Jr.

P. S. Please to Inform my father that my Bro^r S. C. Morris rec^d no hurt in ye Battle—but that Anth^o Morris rec^d a wound with a Bayonet in ye Neck & a Bullet in his Leg.—

Directed,

To The Hon'ble Thomas Wharton, Esquire,
President of the Council of Safety.

Col. Wm. Coats to Brig. Gen. Irwine, 1777.

Sunday Evening, Bristol, January 5th, 1777.

Sir,

By Order of General Putman you will find three Letters One Directed to Mr. John Murray One to Mr. Wm. Logan and one to Mr. Wm. Cole they where under the Care of a Young Man by the Name of Gordon, he comes from an Iron works in New Jersey where General Lee was Rob'd of his Horses, these Circumstances and his having a Commission in his Pocket as an officer in the Jearsey Militia, and now not takeing an active part with us, and the Letters to Persons not well affected I believe was what Induced the General to Stop him, and Ordered me to send him under guard to you, which accordingly, I have Done by Mr. Barnhill to be further Examined by you, the General thinks he ought to be Confined as a Suspected person, but Leaves him to you, The Accounts to Day from Our Army is Six Hundred taken Prisoners 500 Killed Eight pieces of Canon and a great Quantity of Baggage. Last Night General Washington with the whole Army was at Summerset Court House expecting to be Join'd by General Heath with seven thousand Men and this Morning was to have proceeded on to Brunswick, an Express that had Cross'd Carel's Ferry says he heard a smart Cannonade that way the Rout of our Armey, I got from Commodore Nichol's who had been to General Steven's on purpose for Intelligence, the foregoing part from an Express who had been to Lord Sterling from General Washington after the Ingagement at Stoney Brook.

I remain Sir
Your Humble Servant.
WM. COATS,
Lieut. Col. 1st Bat.

Directed,

To Brigadier General Euwin at Philadelphia. If not in Town to the President of the Counsel of Safety ℘ Mr. Barnhill.

General Putman to Council of Safety—1777.

Bristol, Jany 5th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

By the best Intelligence I can collect, I believe that the Army under Gen. Washington after taking Possession of Princeton, proceeded on with all Expedition to Brunswick; so that the Enemy are now, I believe, in the possession of Princeton with General Howe at their Head. If this be the Case now is our Time, and let me beg of you to dispatch the Militia with all possible Expedition to join me—and desire Gen. Irving to use his utmost Endeavours to forward the Militia and other Troops as fast as they arrive—I have got one Piece of artillery to go with me, and I hope to be joined at Bordentown with about 7 or 8 hundred men, together with what I have will make 1400 or 1500 Men.

I have taken some more effectual Measures to get Intelligence to Day. I have sent off a Light Horseman up the Deleware until he gets opposite the Enemy.— I have likewise sent Major Burr to Trenton to cross there & come down to Bordenton to me.—Since I have been writing the above I have received a Letter from Major Mifflin at Bordenton, which informs that Gen. Howe has left Princeton & proceed on after General Washington, leaving about 200 Men to take Charge of the wounded. I shall proceed as fast as possible, and I hope to give a good account of them.

I am, Gent^n, your Hbl.

Servt,

ISRAEL PUTNAM.

Bristol, Jan. 5th, 1777.
To the Council of Safety.

A true Copy In Council of Safety.

Col. John Armstrong to Council of Safety, 1777.

Carlisle, 5th January, 1777.

Gentlemen,

I'm but a few hours got to this place, and hope it will give you some pleasure to know that I have not travelled in vain; for notwithstanding the culpable stupor & timidity which had seized the minds of many in this State & partly arising from that temporary cloud which the wisdom and goodness of God thought proper to throw over our troops on their passage thro' the Jerseys—and partly from the spurious doctrines of dasterdly and ill principled men, I think there is good reason to believe that a number of the Americans—the generality of the Irish, and part of the jermans will stand firm in the common cause. Coll. M'Coy's Battn is now coming into Town; and not quite so destitute of cloathing as has been said.—Five or Six Companys of Militia now on their march & getting ready betwixt this place & Lancaster. If the whole I have seen & heard of were joined Genl Washington, I should hope his Army will at least consist of twenty thousand exclusive of what we may now expect will joine him of the associators of the Jersey, an effect this we may naturally expect from our late acqusition—On wch please to accept my most hearty congratulations. The Susquehanah is now difficult of passage.—Are there not too many wagons taken from the remote parts of the province? I have now two appointments in the lower parts of this County—after which I intend immediately to proceed to Yorktown & several Other parts of that County where there is greater need, and the depth of the Snow makes it next to impracticable to travel beyond the mountains. I'm much of opinion that in Philada there is either some particular deputy from General Howe, or some Secret junto of Tories who have derived authority from him to engage fit tools under certain promises of reward to carry and comment upon his proclamation through various parts of this State, in order to seduce the people & perhaps lay the foundation of a Tory Army at such time as he, Howe, might be able to penetrate this State. One of this sort, I immagine, has been lately sent to yr Board. I hope Some Sudden Law will particularly extend itself towards these kind of Emissaries, & that in the meantime those detected may be held fast, for perhaps the necessity of the case will justify a clause in the Law Post-facto.

I am, Gentn, with great respect,

Yr most Obt humble Servt,

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

P. S. I think it my duty to intimate to you that I have heard insinuations that Congress appears not to have attended to the liberty or Exchange of the officers of this State—and find it is expected that the Council of Safety shou'd interfere or use y^r influence that they have their proper turne; they say that no field officer is now a Prisoner but those of Pennsylvania only, except two from Maryland. the truth of this I don't know; by the request of two Gent^n have given this hint.

Directed,

Mr. Thomas Wharton, President of the Council of Safety, Philadelphia.

Favour'd by }
Captn Steel. }

Dr. Gerardus Clarkson to Capt. Jos. Blewer. 1777.

Sunday Morning, Jany 5th, 1777.

Sir,

Agreeable to your Request I have visited Obadiah Ireton. He is very Sick, and probably may be unfit for Service a considerable time. I was called this Day to visit a considerable Number of men belonging to the Battery commanded by Capt. Wm. Brown. They are very unwell, some indeed ill; I am anxious to relieve them to the utmost, but all my Care will be ineffectual unless they are supplied with a few necessaries suitable for Sick men. The following articles are what I would wish them to have, viz.: Sugar, Barley, Chocolate, Loaf-Bread, & Milk. Perhaps it may be proper to lodge a little Cash in the hands of the Nurse, (who appears a decent woman) from time to time as Occasion requires.

I am, Sir,

Your humb. Servt,

GERARDUS CLARKSON.

Directed.

Capt. Joseph Blewer.

Lord Stirling to Council of Safety, 1777.

Sir,

The three persons whose Names are on foot hereof were brought to me as Deserters from our Army; by their own Confession they left it while in pursuit of the Enemy; they belong to 3d Battalion of the Philadelphia Militia, and I send them to you in order that they may be made a proper example of to their fellow Citizens. I am your most Humble Servant,

STIRLING.

Deserters Names are

James Reynols,
Patrick Marony,
Henry Bell.

P. S. Leiutenant Wilmot, of the British Light horse, is Just bro^t in wounded. I shall send him on to four lane End to morrow. There are a Number of prisoners of war here, & more Coming in. I should be glad to have your opinion where it will be best to send them.

New Town, Jan. 6, 1777.

Directed,

To the Chairman of the Council of Safety, at Philadelphia.

William Richards to Council of Safety, 1777.

Sir:

You will please to take notice that the Signals from Philadelphia to Lewis Town are a great Expence to the Publick, and ought to be of some use—as the matter seems to be Conducted at present, do not find they are of any, for when there is an Alarm, Henry Fisher at Lewis Town, who has the Care of the First Boat, never makes any use of her, but sends of the Horseman; what can be his reasons are best known to himself—I think it my Duty to acquaint you of this matter; you will please to direct as may be thought best.

The last order on the store for some Tackles was a few days ago; I was oblig'd to take them from a small Schooner which I have at the Wharf, as it is not in my power to buy one Coil of Rope in the Town. I was promised a supply by Mr. Ross, who has a quantity, but he is gone to Virginia; what I shall do next it is not in my power to say. Would it be improper for the Publick (who is in

great want) to take what Cordage and Hemp he has got, paying or returning the Value, as Mr. Ross is not on the Spot, and if his Rope Maker will not work it up let some other Person? This Manufactory, with all the Negros, are to be sold; will it not be worth the notice of the Council of Safety?

Should General Washington be so lucky as to drive the Enemy out of the Jersies, will they not make a bold push to attack us by water, and that much Earlier in the Spring than we are aware of? Is not Billings Port by nature Capable of being made very Strong, so as to support the Cheveux de Frise that may be sunk in the Channel, that, with our other Force may be a means of keeping them back, with the help of the Fire ships and Boats? Suppose they should surmount all those Difficulties and get a breast of this Town, have we not a second Chance, and I think a very good one, namely, a Number of Fire Ships and Boats to be plac'd above and below this Town, with small Batteries on Every Wharf, with the men well Cover'd? When the Ships get before your Town, they must stay; they cannot Slip and run of; the Channel is so narrow that one of there largest Ships Cant Come to sail without keeping in the middle of the Channel, which is not to be done unless they are favour'd in a particular manner with Wind and Tide.

Sir, as I have no Pretenssions to Military affairs, nor wond I by any means appear too busy, so be assur'd I have only thrown out those hints for your Perusal, and am your most Obed^t

hum^ble Servt,

WM. RICHARDS.

Directed,

Mr Thomas Wharton, Junr, pres^t at Mr Nesbits.

THOS. NELSON TO COUNCIL, &c., 1777.

Baltimore, Jany 6th, 1777.

Sir,

Capt., Doughty, who has taken charge of the Loan Office certificates for the Eastern States, will be in want of a guard to escort him as far as Hartford in Connecticut. I am therefore desired to request the favor of you to order one for that purpose, which we think ought to consist of six Horsemen, who will expedite the conveyance of these certificates. Capt., Doughty will be in Philadelphia on the 10th Instant.

I am, on behalf of the board of Treasury,

Sir, Your obed^t H^ble Servt,

THO^s. NELSON, Jr.

Directed,

To the Honble The President of the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania. By Express.

Order John Hazelwood to Capt. Wm. Watkins, 1777.

Capt., Wm. Watkins,

Sir,

You must Proceed to Phila., with the Prisners & waite on the Commanding officer there or the Councile of Safety, and Either of them will give you Directions about them.

Your Humbl Sevt,

JOHN HAZELWOOD.

Bristol,
Jany 6th, 1777.

Directed,

To Capt., Wm. Watkins, Esqr.

Gen. Putnam to Council of Safety, 1777.

Bordentown, Jany 6, 1776. [7.]

Sir,

I am much obliged to you for your care in forwarding the ammunition to Bristol. I shall send an express immediately to Col. Coates, who commands at Bristol, with orders to send one waggon load of it after me. I arrived at this place this morning, where I found about 500 of the militia & a few continental troops, who were left by accident by Gen. Washington at Trenton on the night of his march to Princetown. I expect with the troops I brought with me, and with those that have and will join me, to proceed on to Trenton with about 1000 men this afternoon. I am sorry to inform you that a whole company (the Captain & one lame man excepted) deserted from my corps last night. They belong to Berks or Bucks county. A messenger is just now come in from beyond Princetown, who informs that General Washington is now at Pluckamin, 18 miles to the north of Brunswick, where he expects to be joined by Genl Heath, at the head of a considerable body of new England & Jersey militia. The enemy who fled with precipitation in the night from Princeton the evening after they arrived there from Trenton, are now at Brunswick. They have sent a large quantity of their baggage to South Amboy, from which it appears probable that if they are pushed a little longer by our troops, they will retreat to New York. Our future success depends upon speedy reinforcements. I hope therefore you will continue to

send forward the militia as fast as they come into town with your usual zeal and industry in the service of our country.

I am sir, with great respect,
your most obedient
humble servant,
ISRAEL PUTNAM.

P. S.—Major Mifflin at the head of 120 men attacked a body of 250 tory recruits, in Monmouth county, a few days ago; killed 4 of them, and took 24 prisoners. They were all enlisted during the American rebellion.

Capt., Smith with about 30 riflemen, has brought in 22 prisoners, with a waggon containing all the baggage of the Officers of the 35th regiment. They were taken between Princetown and Brunswick.

Directed.

The Honble Thomas Wharton, Esqr., Presidt of the Counsel of Safety, Philada.

public service,
by express.

Wm. Richards to Council &c., 1777

Philada. Janry 7th 1777.

Sir,

Many are the regulations that are wanting in the Fleet that must come from your Board, if you Expect they will be attended to.

In the Painting the Vessels there is great waste for want of a Painter which should be a man on Pay that must follow your Directions in a general manner, I think Every Vessels Bottom ought to be pay'd up to the Bend with Turpentine, Brimstone & oyl, which is a fine Coat for fresh water, and not part of the Bottom to be pay'd with White Lead, and that to be put on by People who do not understand it, is a very great waste, the inside to be painted with Spanish Brown, Venetian red, and black, the Cabins to be a stone Colour, the Barge to be the same colour as the outside of the Galley is Except the stern sheets, that to be painted red and blue. This regulation will save a deal of monies.

I beg that as soon as the Vessels are laid up the Commodore may be desir'd to fix a general Indent for the Boats, that to be Printed with orders that when any thing is wanted by Gunner, Boatswain,

and so on to Every officer, that he shall make it plain to said Commander what is become of it, or how Expended.

as those matters occur to me I will mention them.

remain your most Obedt

Humbl Servt

WM. RICHARDS.

Directed,

Mr. Thomas Wharton Junr. prest.

at Dr. Nesbits.

Gen. Knox to Col. Biddle, 1777.

Morris Town Jany 7 1777

Genl, Knox begs Colo Biddle to inquire whether the Brass Cannon are Casting, if not the reasons of ye Delay with his exertions to forward the busines to the utmost of his Power. He likewise begs him to see what situation the Laboratory for ye Preparation of ye Fixed Ammunition is in and sett it going in ye Most Spirited manner.

Also ye Carriage makers for ye mounting the Cannon that may be Cast.

20,000	Cannister Shott with		flal	Carts.	for 3 pdr
30,000	. .	do	.	.	. 6 pdr
8,000	Round Balls	.	do.	.	. 3 pdr
10,000	do.	.	do.	.	. 6 pdr
2,000	Can Shott	.	do.	.	12 pdr
2,000	round .	.	do.	.	12 pdr

Orders from General Knox Morris Town Jany 7th 1777

Lord Stirling to — S——, 1777.

New Town Jany 7, 1777.

Sir,

I have received your letter of Yesterday date, am much obliged to you for the Intelligence Communicated, and shall order the printed resolves to be dispersed thro' the most public parts of this Country. I shall send off to Philadelphia about 70 British prisoners tomorrow morning, Genl Washington has upwards of 200 more with him, some more I understand are gone by Burlington; I have Just received a letter from Genl Washingtons Secretary he says the loss of the Enemy at Princetown was at least 500, including killed & prisoners a number

of their wounded are scattered in the farm houses so that very few of the three Regiments viz: the 17th, 40th & 55th, & 60, dismounted light Horse made their Escape; It was the Generals design to have surprised Brunswick; But the Enemy's mainbody pressed so close on his Rear that he was obliged to abandon that design & file off to the left at Kingston on the 5th he was at Pluckimin about 16 mile to the North West of Brunswick, by possessing the Hills in that Country he will be able to make the scituation of the Enemy very uneasy in East Jersey, I doubt not it will oblige them to abandon it.

with much respect & Esteem

I am

your most Humble Servt.

STIRLING.

James Reynolds & the other two deserters went to Philadelphia yesterday.

From the Earl of Stirling dated Newtown Jan. 7. 1777

GEN. PUTNAM, TO COUNCIL, &c. 1777.

Trenton 7th Januy 1777.

Sir,

I am happy to tell you that by a Letter just received from his Excellency I am informed that the Loss of the Enemy in the Attack at Princetown amounts in killed, Wounded & Prisoners to near 600.

The Letter is dated at Pluckamin 5th Int where he intends remaining for a few Days to refresh his Army which as well as the Enemy's has had hard Duty—He is in great Hopes with the Assistance of Heaven to drive them entirely out of the Jerseys.

I am ordered to take Post at Crosswix to which Place I shall march to morrow morning.

It will be Policy to make our strength at least three Times as great as it is, Nevertheless encouraging the Militia to march on as fast as possible & join me at Crosswix. His Excellency has ordered all the Baggage Waggons, to be sent from Burlington to him.

You will please to show this to the Committee of Congress as Scarcity of Paper obliges me to omit writing this being the only Piece I could procure.

I am Sir

Your hbe Servt

ISRAEL PUTNAM.

Directed.

On Public Service, Thomas Wharton Esqr President of the Council of Safety for the State of Pinnsylvania at Philadelphia.

Express:—Permit the Bearer to pass to Philada ℘ order Genl Putnam, Jany 7 177 Jona Mifflin D. Q. M. G.

Col. Irvine to Council, 1777.

Carlisle, January 7th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

I am well informed that Congress Resolved last Friday that all the field Officers lately taken at Trent Town, should be offered in exchange for General Lee. As I am the only Field officer belonging to this State, who has it in their power, I believe, to address you, I look on it my duty, as well on behalf of my brother Officers who are suffering as my own, to throw you out a few crude hints. Tho I would not be understood to insinuate any thing against the good intentions of Congress, yet sure I am that they could not have thought properly in this matter. It militates entirely against this state, as it is their Field officers only who are Prisoners. I dare say I speak from my own feelings, that seven or eight officers of Rank, of Pennsylvania, when they heard of the late fortunate affair at Trent Town were much lifted, but how must their spirits be depressed or rather agitated, when they hear that to release a favorite, their happiness must be sacrificed, how ever great a man Genl. Lee is, I am as willing as any man to allow him every thing he merits, yet must say it is neither Justice nor perhaps good policy that he should be so highly favoured at the expence of so many men who are as willing as he to serve their Country, & who knows but some of them may yet be as able, let me ask what great services has he yet done. As General Washington has ample powers I hope the Council will interest themselves with him that Justice may be done the Officers of Pennª., If the matter is properly stated to his Excellency he has too much Candor not to do it. I am, Gentlemen,

With great Regard,

Your most Humble servant,

WM. IRVINE.

Directed.

The Honble. The Council of Safety, for Pennsylvania.

Col. Francis Johnston to Council, 1777.

Gentlemen,

I must beg leave to lay before you a few objections against the late appointments of Field Officers, which your Honorable Board have thought proper to make in this State.

On the 5th January last the Second, third, fourth, fifth, & sixth Pennsylvania Battalions were rais'd by your Honorable Board, in consequence of an order receiv'd from Congress for that purpose:

Among the several officers appointed, I had the Honor of receiving a Lieu^t. Colonels Commission as third eldest in Rank. Under this appointment I most chearfully acquiesed & still shou'd, were I not apprehensive the late appointments would naturally bring in Question my Reputation and Character as an Officer.

I have been so unfortunate as to see almost every Field Officer, inferior in Rank to myself in the above battalions promoted over me, one of them immediately over my Head. This I humbly conceive, argues a want of ability or Merit in me, or much superior Merit in them. If your Honorable Board shou'd only suggest the latter to be the case, the regard I bear my Country will assuredly induce me to submit to the appointments. On the contrary shou'd our pretensions appear equal, then I must confess I shall esteem myself aggrieved, till your Honorable Board determine, that I shall still retain my Rank, notwithstanding these appointments. The appointment of Lieu^t. Colonel Penrose (though he is a worthy officer) seems to be particularly hard & wou'd appear so to any officer possess'd of the smallest degree of Military Spirit, more especially when it is known that several worthy Members of the Council, have candidly declared an Error was committed in this appointment, in consequence of a belief that Colonel Penrose was the elder Officer. I must repeat it again it appears peculiarly hard that, I should submit to the commands of an Officer, whom I few days before Commanded. It is a degree of hardship which I cannot submit to. My sincere regard for the regularity of the service will prompt me to continue in this Sentiment. However I humbly submit the merits of my Complaints to the Wise determination of your Honorable body, firmly detirmined to abide by it, be it what it may.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

FRANCIS JOHNSTON.

Directed.

The Honble The Council of Safety of Pennsylvania.

Lord Stirling to R. Morris, &c. 1777.

Newtown, Jan. 8, 1777,
9 o'clock P. M.

D^r. Sir,

Since I wrote you this evening, I have received the enclosed letter from Genl. Stephens, by which you will find the Enemy are in motion, but their destination uncertain, I think they dare not go into cantonments again in New Jersey. The pay master Gen^al. is Exhausted which, I am afraid, will have fatal consequences on the recruiting

service, unless his coffers here and at Peckskill are soon replenished; this service I need not say is of the utmost importance towards the Success of the next Campaign. With sincere regard, I am,

Your most Humble Servant,

STIRLING.

Directed,

The Honble. Robert Morris, Esqr. & Committee of Congress.

JAMES TILGHMAN TO COUNCIL &c., 1777.

Jan. 8th, 1777.

Gentlemen:

Upon being informed that there were People cutting Wood off the Commons without any authority, I took a walk this morning to see into the matter, and found a number of People in the Execution of this kind of Plunder, who had no excuse but that others did the same thing. I persuade myself you'l be of Opinion that a stop ought to be put to so flagrant an invasion of Property, and I submit it whether it may not be expedient for the Council to issue their order to the Overseers of the Poor to seize any wood thus unlawfully cut, for the use of the Poor, and to bring the persons so offending before the Board in order to be made sensible that they must not repeat this kind of Injury. I am certain there are not less than ten or a dozen Carts and Waggons now running in the Carriage of Wood off the Commons. The Proprietors have never converted any of this wood to their own private emolument, but left it for the accommodation of the City, and in times of scarcity of wood have parcelled it out to the Poor, which is an advantage to the City which will soon be entirely lost if some stop be not put to the present depredations. I am sorry to be troublesome to you, Gentlemen, but I thought in Justice to the Proprietors and the city, I could not omit this application.

I am y^r most Ob^t Ser^t,

JAMES TILGHMAN.

Directed,

To The Hon'ble Council of Safety.

Lord Stirling to R. M. [Morris?], 1777.

New Town, Jany. 8th, 1777.

My dear Sir:

I have been very Ill at this place for some days past owing to what I suffered in our Expedition to Trenton on the 26 Decr. In a Letter I have Just received from General Stephen, dated at Trenton this morning, in which are the following words. "There is a report "that General How intends to push towards Delaware, and for "Philadelphia, with 7000 men, which he has made up from his "different Posts to reinforce his army in the Jersey's, and in his "turn will take no notice of General Washington being in his rear. "This is said, my Lord, to be authentic Intelligence." If it should prove, our best chance is by vigilance to prevent their crosing the River, for I have no Troops with me expect some trifling Guards of Militia. I have taken every precaution to keep the boats on this side, but if this severe weather continues the river will be Passable on the Ice in many places; it will, therefore, be necessary to Collect all the Troops we can, and have them ready to oppose the Passage of the River, or Join General Washington as occasion may require. I now write to Col. Weedon, who is at Philada to Collect all the recovered sick of the whole army from wherever they are. I am told there are some Maryland Troops on their way to Philada, and two Regiments of Virginia Troops at the Head of the Bay. I know not what orders any of them are under, But I think they had all be better ordered up as soon as Possible, wherefore, unless you know that Congress have destined them otherwise, I must request the favour of you to forward the Inclosed Letters to the Commanding Officers of all those Troops to come forward as soon as Possible, and to the Commissary of Provisions to provide properly for them. Be pleased also to Communicate this to the Council of Safety & Board of War.

I have the Honor to be, &c.,

STIRLING.

In order to save I must request the favr of you to desire the board of war to direct the Commissarie to make the necessary Preparation of Provisions & ammunition. If any of them are in want of arms, I have some Hundreds—please to direct and forward the others.

Copy.

Dr. De Normandie to Council of Safety, 1777.

Bristol, Jany. 9th, 1777.

Gentlemen:

The number of Wounded and Sick in this Hospital exceed 100, and are in such a situation as not to bear removing without great pain and danger. By order of the commanding officer in this place, I furnished all the Hospital stores as long as money would procure them, but this part of the Country being exhausted of sundry necessary articles, oblige me to give you this trouble, and to request you would order the necessaries agreeable to the annexed list to be forwarded to Bristol as soon as possible.

I am with the greatest respect

Gentlemen, Your most

Obedient Humble Servt,

JOHN A. C. DE NORMANDIE.

N. B. The stores forwarded to this place for the use of the sick, &c., were, by order of Collon^l Morris, part forwarded to the Jerseys for the use of the Hospital there.

A List of the Officers of the Seventh Battalion of Pennsylvania, (late the Sixth Battalion) in the Service of the United States.

William Irvine,	*Colonel,*	No. 3.	former Commission	10 Jan. 1776.
Thos Hartley,	*Lieut. Col.*	No. 2.	do.	the same day.
David Grier,	*Major,*	No. 2.	do.	1 June, 1776.

Captains.	*First Lieut's.*	*Second Lieut's.*
Abraham Smith,	John McDonald,	Brooks,
Samuel Hay, *pro. Maj'r.*	William Bratton,	John Brown,
Jeremiah Talbert,	John Grier,	John Hogge,
Wm. Rippey,	John Eddie,	Irvine,
Moses McClean,	John Alexander,	Robert Wilson,
James Wilson,	Alexander Parker,	Saml Montgomery,
Wm. Alexander,	Samuel McFerran,	William Nichols,
Lewis Bush.	Abdel McAllister,	Graham,

Ensigns.	*Ensigns.*	*Quarter Master.*
William Miller,	John Bush,	Robert Hops,
Wm. Lush,	John King,	*Adjutant.*
Samuel Kennedy,	Alexander Walker,	James Brooks.
John Hughes,	Downing,	

As some late Changes have happened in the Batt^n at Ticondaroga, The Counsel of Safety will be pleased to suspend the Appointments of the Surgeon, Surgeon's Mate & Paymaster for a few days till I can inform them.

Yours, &c.,

THOMAS HARTLEY, Lt Col^l.,
now commanding the above Batt^n.

Directed.

To the Honble Council of Safety of Pennsy^a., Philad^a., Jany ye 9th, 1776. [1777.]

Gen. Putnam to Council of Safety, 1777.

Crosswicks, Jany 9th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

I arrived here last Evening with about Men, including a Party of Jersey which have joined me at this Place. I received a Letter from his Excellency last Evening, without Date, but supposed to be written 7th Inst., he was at Morris Town, & proposed refreshing his Troops a few Days at that Place till the Arrival of the Baggage, which will move on from Trenton to Day. The Disposition of the Enemy you will learn from the enclosed minutes, taken by Lieut. Hugo, of Col. Richardson's Maryland Rigt., who made his Escape with some of our Prisoners who were sent out for Exchange.

We are informed by Capt Nixon that a Body of Jersey Militia under Gen. Maxwell, attacked & defeated 1 Reg^t of Highlanders, 1 of Hessian Troops at Spank Town, on Sunday last—this accounts for a heavy firing heard on that Day by different Persons as low as Princeton.

The Tories of Monmouth are again in Arms. Col. Gurney marched to Day to suppress them; the Militia of the Neighbourhood of Cranbury are embodied & impatient to join & assist him.

Count Dunhaupe was badly wounded in the Head in the Skirmish at Mt Holly—as he passed thro' this Place in a Chaise, he stopped at a neighbouring House to refresh.

The smallest Reinforcement of Militia or Regular Troops will be acceptable. I would advise that all cross at Philad^a. I have ordered all the Bridges from thence here to be laid.

I am Gentlemen, with the
Utmost Esteem your
Ob^t Hum^l Servt,
ISRAEL PUTNAM.

Directed.

Thomas Wharton, Esqr., Presid^t of the Council of Safety at Philadelphia. Lieut. Wilkinson.

Col. Melcher to Council, 1777.

Gent.,

Mr. Fagan has just discovered a Quanty of Arms in the Barracks, I believe they belong to Major Nichols of the Marines, will it be proper to send them to Mr. Towns? We are much distressed for Houses, there are many that have a little furniture in them, viz: Mr. Montgomery's, Capt Stiles, Mr. Turner, &c. Would it not be best to remove all to one house?—many Company's are expected to day, I do not know where to quarter them unless that plan is adopted, or billet them on the Inhabitants. Richd Penn's House would be best calculated for a store for Furniture.

I am Gent., your most
h'bl Servt.,
ISAAC MELCHER,

Jany 9, 1777. Br. M. G.

P. S.—There is not less than 2200 Militia now in this City waiting for arms, &c., able bodied men, and 1400 sick in the different Hospitals.

Directed.

To the Hon'ble Council of Safety.

Genl. John Cadwalader to Council, 1777.

Morris Town, 9th Jan'y, 1777.

Gentn.,

Since my Letter of this monrn'g, we have certain Information that the Enemy left Eliz' Town yesterday, except a small Guard—the Jersey militia sent out a Party who intercepted a Party of Waldeckers (about 50) & took them all prisoners—they then proceeded to Eliz' Town & took about 30 Highlanders who were left with a Schooner with Baggage, they secured the Baggage and have brought it off. The Troops marched from Eliz' to Amboy. The Enemy have collected their main Force near Brunswic & it is not, yet, known what their Scheme is. I shall acquaint you from time to time of the occurrances that happen. I wish some method could be taken to enduce the deserters to join us again.

There is ab' 1000 bu's of Salt at Spank Town on Rawway River ab't 5 miles above Woodbridge. They are bringing it off.

I am, Gent', your most ob't Serv't,
JOHN CADWALADER.

Directed,

To The Council of Safety, Philad'a.

President of Congress to the Assembly, 1777.

Baltimore, Jan'y 10th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

The necessity of filling up the army with the utmost expedition has induced Congress to direct me to request that you will as soon as possible inform them what success the recruiting service has had in your state, towards raising the troops required by a resolve of the 16th of September, which was formerly transmitted to you. I am therefore most earnestly to entreat your compliance with that resolve as speedily as possible.

I have the honour to be
Your most Obed't &
very H'ble Serv't,
JOHN HANCOCK, Prest

The Honble. The Assembly of the State of Pa.

Directed, On public service,
To The Hon. The Council of Safety of the State of Pennsylvania.
Philadelphia. Congress, Baltimore,
JOHN HANCOCK.

Capt. Daniel Joy to Council of Safety, 1777.

Reading Furnace, Jan'y 10th, 1777.

Sir,

Mr. Old this moment received yours of yesterday ℔ Express, & he desires me to inform you that above all things he shall attend to it's contents, and will exert himself to the utmost to comply with your request, first in sending the three pound shot, then the others as fast as possible. They are casting the different size Shott as fast as possible, having five Potters that doth nothing else; by to morrow Night they will have cast that is not sent off about four tons of the following kinde: 3lb, 2½lb, 2lb, 1½lb, 1lb, & half pounds, with a quantety of Canester Shot. The greatest difficulty will be in getting Teams to hall them down. But if it cannot be don by agreement I must exercise the authority of Impressing with which I am invested by the Committee of Congress for transaction the Continential business of this State.

You may rest assured that my endeavours shall not be wanting in forwarding the Service as much as lays in my Power.

I remain with much Esteem,

Your H'ble Servt,

DANIEL JOY.

N. B., you have in the State-house yard Several two pound cannon Mounted on traveling carriages & not a shot for them. There was two tons of shot sent down this week of the following

Sizes	62	Eighteen pound shot	
	250	three	do.
	400	one	do.
	300	half	do.
	1350	1¼	do.
	815	pounds of canester shot.	

Directed,

To The Honble Thomas Wharton, jun^r, at Philadelphia.

Gen. John Cadwalader to Council, 1777.

Morris Town, 10 Jan^y, 1777.

Gent^n:

Our Militia is much reduced by desertion & other causes. Many persons thought our leaving Prince Town was a Retreat, and immediately pushed off to Careell's Ferry & other places, thinking it more safe to retire in small Parties than with the main Body. This Idea has been a great Disadvantage to our Schemes, and ever will, when privates undertake to judge of the motives of a General by his Movements.

Some Steps sheuld be immediately taken to enduce the refugees to return. I rece^d your Favor last Night, & was not surprized that you should not know where the Army was. I wrote you the particulars of our movements, by Mr Casdrop. Pray remember the Shoes, Stockings, &c.

I am, Gent.,

Your most ob^t Servant,

JOHN CADWALADER.

Directed,

To the Honble The Council of Safety, Philad^a.

Capt Howell.

Col. Flower to Commander at Bristol, 1777.

Morris Town, 12th Jan'y, 1777.
Head Quarters.

Sir:

It is his Excellancy, Gen[l] Washington, Express Orders that all the Amunition now in Bristol, and all that is Coming on from Phila. be Immediately Sent on to the Army the Safest and Shortest rout, with a Sufficient Guard, directed to me or to Brigadier Genl. Knox, at or near Head Quarters, & if the Army should remove from this place, to follow with the utmost Dispatch.

I am, Sir, your most Obed[t],
Hum. Ser[t],
BENJ. FLOWER,
Commi'y Gen'l of Mil'y Stores.

Directed,

On Public Service. To the Commanding Officer at Bristol.
Permit this Express to Pass to Bristol.
Benj. Flower, C. G. M. S.

℘ Capt. Brown.

Col. John Parke to Council of Safety, 1777.

Bristol, Jan. 15, 1777.

Sir,

I received from the Hon. Council sometime past, six Waggons of Ammunition, which I immediately forwarded to Gen. Putnam at Crosswicks, where I have the satisfaction to hear they are safe arrived. There is one load of ammunition arriv'd here since, which appears to be for the Use of the Troops under Lord Stirling. There are also a number of 12 Lb. Cartridges here, but of no use to Gen. Washington, there being no metal of that W[t] with him. I humbly conceive that an order from the Board for that ammunition with Gen. Putnam, will supply all Exigencies.

Your most Obed[t],
humble Serv[t],
JOHN PARKE, L[t] Col.

Directed,

To Thos. Wharton, Ju[r], Esq[r], Pres[dt] of the Council of Safety.—On pubilc Service.

Order of Council of Safety, 1777.

In Council of Safety.

Philadelphia, January 13th, 1777.

Whereas, the several Counties of this State ought to furnish a Quantity of grain for Horse feed, and it is necessary that every part should furnish its proportion, Therefore, Resolved, That the several Counties furnish the following proportions, viz. :

Philada County	4000
Bucks	4000
Chester	4000
Lancaster	6000
Berks	4000
Northampton	4000
York	4000
Cumberland	4000
	38000

And that circular letters be sent to the respective County Committees, requesting them to regulate the same by directing every Township to furnish a certain part, in order each individual may have it at his option to do this essential service to their Country.

John Walters to Owen Biddle, 1777.

Sr.,

I have a quantity of Crude Sulpher to refine for ye Hon. Councile of Safety; under a notion that ye price of Wood woud fall, I did not lay in a sufficient quantity; owing to the unexpected distraction of the times there is none now to be purchasst at any price; unless I can get a supply I must stop my Work. There is a Wood near my House that supplys the Barracks, and where I am inform'd I may supply myself, provided I have an Order from the Councile of Safety for that purpose. I beg you will furnish me with such an order; my own Servants will cutt it down and I am willing to pay any reasonable price for the Wood.

I am, S^r,

Your most Humble Servt,

JOHN WALTERS.

Spring Gardons, 14th Jan., 1777.

Directed.

To Mr Owen Biddle, Prest.

Resolution of Congress and Notice from Treasury, 1777.

In Congress.

Baltimore, January 14th, 1777.

Resolved, That the Commissioners of the Loan Offices be directed to receive the Bills of Credit, heretofore emitted by the States in which they respectively hold their Offices, for such Sums as shall be ordered by the Commissioners of the Treasury, or the Continental Treasurer, from Time to Time, for Continental purposes, within such States respectively.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, Secry.

Treasury-Office, Baltimore, January 30, 1777.

Sir,

In Consequence of the above Resolve, I am directed by the Treasury to inform you, that they think it adviseable for the Commissioners of the Loan Offices to consult with the Councils or Committees of Safety of their respective States, and inform themselves with the Sums of Money that may be wanted for the ensuing Campaign, to pay and subsist the Continental Troops that may be stationed therein, for Defence of such States; and also to answer the Demands of the several States against the Continent. Having thus proceeded, you will please to receive, for Loan-Office Certificates, the Bills of Credit emitted by your State, before the Date of the above Resolve, to the Amount of the Sums that may be specified as above, together with such other Sums as the Secret Committee shall desire you to borrow in said Bills, for the Purpose of paying for Produce, which they have Occasion to purchase in said State; taking Care, at all Times, to give the Preference to Continental Currency. I am also to inform you, that all the Money borrowed on Certificates, is to be paid to either the Order of Congress, or the Treasurer; and that other Warrants will not be considered as Vouchers, on adjusting the Accounts of your Office:

Being, Sir, you very humble Servant,

WILLIAM GOVETT, A. Audit. Gen.

Directed,

To Thomas Smith Esqr., Commissioner of the Loan Office for the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Col. Flower to Council of Safety, 1777.

Morris Town, Jan^y, 14th, 1777.

Gent^m,

by order of Col^o Benj^a Flower Comm^y, Genl of Mili^y Stores, I have Sent p^r Ruben Gillespee Waggoner, Fifty-seven Muskets and Three Rifles to be Emediately Repaered for the Use of the Continential Army, Also Thirty Six Old Cartridge Boxes, as p^r Invoice inclosed.

Yours, &c.,

SAM^l FRENCH, Cond^r of M^y Store.

Directed,

To The Honble Councell of Safety, at Philadelphia.

Standing Orders for the Garrison of Philadelphia.

I. As soon as any Corps or Detachment marches into this City, the Commanding Officer must wait on the Officer Commanding in Chief, and make a report thereof.

II. The Officers commanding Corps or Detachments are to use their utmost diligence in getting their men mustered, and equipping them; for which purpose they must make a return to Messrs. Mease and Caldwell of the cloathing wanting, to Colonel Flowers of the Arms and Accoutrements, and to Major Mifflin of the Haversacks, &c.

III. Every Officer coming into this Garrison, must make a Return to the Town-Major, specifying his Name, Rank, Corps, date of Commission, and Place where he Quarters.

IV. The Adjutant, or, where there is no Adjutant, some other Officer appointed to do his Duty, must attend at the Town-Major's every Day at eleven o'clock, to receive Orders. Should the Town-Major be absent, his Orderly Book will be left on the Table in his Parlour, for the inspection of the Adjutants.

V. When any Troops belonging to the Garrison, or on their way to Camp, are quartered out of the Barracks, a Sergeant or Corporal from each Corps is to attend constantly at the Barracks, to be ready to carry Orders to their respective Corps; for which purpose a room in the Barracks must be appointed for their Reception.

VI. An Adjutant, in rotation, is constantly to remain in the Barracks, from whence he is not to depart on any Account, 'till relieved, except when he goes to the Town-Major to receive orders; but be ready to receive and distribute Orders.

VII. Whenever the Drummer beats the Adjutants call, or first

part of the Troop, all the Adjutants in the Barracks, and orderly Sergeants or Corporals, from Corps quartered out of the Barracks, are to repair to the Parade, receive orders, and distribute them to their respective Corps.

VIII. A Report to be made daily at eight o'clock in the Morning, of the Strength of each Corps actually present, agreeable to the following Form, to the Town-Major, that he may make a general Return to the commanding Officer.

A MORNING RETURN of the REGIMENT, commanded by 1777.

Colonel.	Lieut Colonel.	Major	Chaplain.	Adjutant.	Quarter Master.	Surgeon.	Mate.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Sergeants.	Drummers and Fifers.	Rank and File	Whereof. Sick.	Whereof. Prison.

These Reports to be made regularly by every Corps without exception, until they march out of Town.

IX. A Field-Officer, whenever there are four in Town, when not, a Captain, to attend daily at the Barracks, and do the duties of Officer of the Day.

X. Every commissioned or non-commissioned officer commanding a Guard, must every Morning at eight o'clock send a Report in Writing, agreeable to the following Form, to the Field Officer or Captain of the Day, who is to make his Report to the commanding Officers at ten o'clock.

A REPORT of GUARD 1777.

The Guard consists of Subalterns, Sergeants, Corporals, Drummer, Privates, and furnishes Sentries by Day, and by Night.

Prisoners.	Regiments.	Comp'nies.	By whom Confined.	When Confined.	Crimes.	Tried or Not.	Punishm't.	Rec'd in part or the whole.

Extraordinaries since Guard mounting.

No Officer commanding a Guard must receive a Prisoner without

his Crime in Writing, and the Name of the Person by whom confined, unless it be the Officer commanding the Garrison, who may confine a Prisoner without giving in his Crime at the time of confining him.

XI. As soon as any Corps or Party is equipped for marching, the commanding Officer thereof is to give twenty-four Hours notice to Major Mifflin, that Shallops may be provided.

By Order of Major General ARNOLD,

LEWIS NICOLA, *T. M.*

FRANCIS GURNEY TO GEN'L,—1777

Shrewsbury 14th Jany 1777.

Dear Genl

I must beg you will Immediately send me one Field Piece, I find the Enemy have not got their Vessels out of the Creeke, and should the Artillary come in time have no Doubt of taking them we have more plunder or rather Kings Stores than we can get Wagons to carry off. I wish you would send forward all the Wagons you can collect.

I would advise a Company to be sent to the Court House in order to press Wagons and bring them down which they might also Guard up. I am Just now Informed that the Enemy have Landed a party at Red Bank to the Northward of Black point, and am Determined to march that way Immediately with about one hundred men.

I am Dear Genl &c.,

FRANCIS GURNEY.

GEN'L CADWALADER & OTHER OFFICERS TO ——— 1777.

Morris Town January 15th 1777.

Sir,

The Militia of the City of Philadelphia and of the State of Pennsylvania have enabled General Washington to strike a Blow which has greatly changed the Face of our affairs, and if they can be induced to continue a few weeks longer, there is the Strongest probability that the enemy will be compelled to Quit New Jersey entirely. But it is extreamly unlucky that the time which they have engaged to Serve is now expiring, and we dread the consequences which may follow from their persisting in a resolution to return home.

The example of the City will probably greatly influence the whole Militia of the State. It is therefore of the highest consequence to prevail on them, if possible, to continue in the Service until they can

be relieved by those who have not yet appeared on the Field. If they refuse and their example should be followed by the rest of the Pennsylvanians, it is but too probable that General Washington, after the Glorious Success which has attended his measures, may be obliged to repass the Delaware and retreat to the City of Philadelphia.

The fatal consequences of such a Step we need not paint to you, who have so lately seen the dreadful effects produced by the approach of a formidable rapacious enemy. It is our duty to inform you, that the Militia have undergone the greatest hardships with cheerfulness and have in every instance shown the utmost readiness to comply with the orders which have been given them—and as all contracts made by public Bodies ought especially to be held Sacred, we are of opinion they are entituled to an honorable discharge yet as the Situation of our affairs appears to require their further service, they have Virtuously determined to wait a few days longer in expectation of the Council of Safety taking effectual measures to supply their places as soon as Possible with another Set of men who yet remain behind they justly observe that it is very unreasonable to expect them to continue in the Field while a great number of men equally able to bear arms are suffered to remain at home with their families enjoying in peace at a distance from the enemy all the benefits arising from the Virtuous efforts of those who have ventured their lives in the defence of liberty and their country, they say that every person able to bear arms (except those who are conscientiously Scrupulous of bearing arms in any case) ought to give their personal service and that some test ought to be required of *every man*, that our Friends may be distinguished from our Enemies. It is observed that a number of persons have procured appointments of little consequence which they plead in excuse from Serving in the Field, it certainly concerns the Honor of those who make appointments to attend to this complaint which is frequently repeated. The importance of quieting the minds of the Association your Honorable Body will perceive, and we have no doubt it will claim your immediate attention as it connot be doubted that public measures ought to be regulated by the opinions, temper, and disposition of the people—they have long seen public measures taken without decision and unsupported.

They have been amused with promises of effectual regulations and have been disappointed in every Instance. In short they find cowards, disaffected men, and open Enemies to the liberties of America are Suffered to go abroad sowing Sedition and dispersing their poison in every department without punishment or notice. If these evils are not remedied instantly, we tremble for the consequences to the State of Pennsylvania and to all America. These States have declared themselves independant and Pennsylvania depends on your Board to Support her Honor in this point.

We are contending for all that is dear and valuable to men and it requires the assistance of every individual to defend them from a Cruel and powerfull enemy. We wish to see the Civil Authority

regulate and direct all our public measures, and should greatly lament the necessity which may compel the Military Power to take the direction into their hands in order to save this Country from absolute ruin, but you may depend that the military will exert its authority whenever the weakness, langour or timidity of your councils shall render it their duty so to do, and all the world will justify them in it. The necessity of this we concieve you may prevent by issuing a Proclamation requiring the Militia of the City of Philad^a and the Counties of Philadelphia, Chester and Bucks, who have not complied with the requisition of Congress by entering into service immediately to join General Washington's Army or to be banished this Country and their Estates forfieted, and that a reasonable proportion of the Militia of the other Counties be immediately embodied to relieve those of their respective Counties now in the Army when their time of service may expire. Those who cannot be equipped at Philadelphia may receive the Arms and Accoutrements of the men whom they relieve, and we have no doubt but those who are now in service will in due time relieve such as shall take their present posts, by this regulation every man will give that Assistance which the necessity of the times requires the Honor and Credit of the state will be supported and the liberties of America preserved, every man in Civil Society is equally entitled to the enjoyment of Liberty and Safety and is therefore bound to yeild an equal personal Service in support of it, and we earnestly recommend that the Council of Safety will take such effectual and spirited measures as will make every person capable of bearing arms give his personal Service, and we can assure you that the militia will be ready at all times to give their support to every resolution of the Representative and Executive Bodys which may tend to promote the Honor, Happiness and Freedom of the State of Pennsylvania. The Militia now here have been informed of the Contents of this Letter, and have from a firm belief of its having a good effect, agreed to stay a few days longer, We therefore earnestly request that you will inform the commanding officer here as soon as Possible what is likely to be done herein that we may take our measures accordingly.

We have the Honor to be with great respect

Your most Obedient & very

Humble Servants.

JOHN CADWALADER Brig^r Genl
JOHN BAYARD Col. 2nd Batt^n
JACOB MORGAN Junr Col. 1st Battn.
T. MATLACK Col. R. B.
JOHN NIXON Lt Col. 3rd Batt^n
SAMUEL MEREDITH 3rd Batt^n Major.
ROBERT KNOX Maj^r 3rd Batt^n
WM. BRADFORD Major 2nd Batt^n
JAS. COPPERTHWAITE Maj^r 1st Batt^n

RICHARD WELLS TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1777.

Gentlemen.

Having very attentively considered ye proposal you made me last Night, I find on many accounts it would not suit me to engage in it. Perhaps it might be sufficient to say, that so much of my time is already employed in the Service of others, in several capacities, that too small a Portion is allotted for my own private Affairs; but Sincerity and Candor, forbid my concealing the true Reason of my wishing to decline the appointment; I hope not to offend by my Honesty, yet I cannot I think, with an upright Conscience, withold the confession. The Post, Gentlemen, which you fill, is built on a Foundation so opposite to my sentiments, & the Money I should have to distribute on your account, so expressly put into your hands for the Purposes of War, that I should stand condemned by my own Heart if I accepted the Charge. Far be it from me, to undertake here to arraign your Conduct in the Prosecution of your Office; I cheerfully grant to all Men that Freedom of action, which I claim in Return, and assure you, with great Sincerity, that whilst on the one Hand, I cannot give a hearty approbation to the present system, on the other, I will never oppose or disturb it; my constant study being to pass thro' Life at Peace with my own Breast and all the World. I know I have been more explicit, than common policy might have dictated, but thought I should be wanting in Justice to you & myself not to have ingenuously told you the Truth. I am much obliged by your entertaining so good an opinion of my integrity, as to nominate me to so important a Trust, & hope you will not think too unfavourably of me for the Part I act.

I am your Friend,

RICHARD WELLS.

Philad^a Jany 15th, 1777.

Directed,

To The Council of Safety.

MAJOR THOMAS PROCTOR TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1777.

Morristown, Jany 16th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

Through Sundry pressing invitations of Genl Knoxes for my Joining the Continental Train Artillery under his Command, Did pledge my word to Communicate, his request to your Honours, to have your approbation if it were agreeable, or otherwise. Submitting my self intirely to your pleasure. Confident of the Honour you

were pleas'd to confer on me unmerited, in commanding the Artillery of your State, assured that your Just conception of my mean abilities, will determine in which Department my services might be most conducive of freedom to my Country. Should it seem meet my continuance in your service longer, I receive contentment, Or if disposed to gratify the Genl. in his request, I am the same; Only soliciting your determination, beg leave to subscribe my self Honrd. Sirs.

Your devoted Hble. Servt.
THOS. PROCTOR.

Directed

To The Honourable Council of Safety, Philadelphia.

℘ Favr of Coll. Flowers.

ROBERT MORRIS TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1777.

Philada. Jany. 16, 1777.

Gentn,

As there are some masters, mates & mariners here that have been taken in Merchant Vessels, & wish to be sent into New York, I think your Board had best send them in discharge of your promise to Capt Hamond of the Roebuck, with a passport to that purport or if you decline doing it, I will grant them a pass to Genl Putnam to be sent over by South Amboy. I have the honor to be very respectfully Gentn,

Your Obed. Servant,
ROB. MORRIS.

Directed,

To The Honble Council of Safety, Pennsylva.

LIST OF PRISONERS, (HESSIANS,) 1777.

Regt of Losberg.

Officers Names.	*Servants & Soldiers, acting as Servants & Cadets.*	
Lt. Colonel Shaffer,	Arnold Bitter, Anthony Lityer,	Serv'ts.
Major Hanshin,	Merrieusk, Surgeon Mathey,	Sold'rs.
Capt., Hedding,	Frederick Ebling,	Servant.

	Cadet Kress,
Lieut. Keller,	Shreder, Servant.
" Peel,	Brand, do.
" Miller,	None.
Ensign Grabba,	Kiester, Soldier.
" Zinge,	Vaut, do.
" Hobe,	Vied, Servant.
" Kondorff,	None. do.

Regt Kniphausen.

Capt. Biesenrode,	Marks, Servant.
do. Lewenstien,	Miller, Soldier.
Lieut. Sobbe,	Hornelle, Moore, } Servants.
" Forry,	None.
" Fisher,	Heydeman, Soldier.
" Widerhold,	Leignheyser, Servant.
Ensign Drach,	Rittir, Servant.
Jiesheen,	Pheif, Soldier.
Judge Advocate Moeller,	Knob, Servant.

Regt Roll.

Major Mathias,	Rund, Hebze, } Servants.
Capt. Breeback,	J. Jundneff, "
Lieut. Sabyman,	Hendrich, "
" Kiener,	Shaffer, "
Ensign Flech,	Gerhold, Soldier.
" Kleinshmith,	Nagell, "
" Shroedes,	None.
Officers, 26.	Servants, 27.
R. PETERS.	Women, 2.

R. PETERS.

War Office, Jany 16th, 1776. [1777.]

I do hereby certify that the within mentioned Prisoners were delivered over by Capt. Farmer to the Order of the Board of War.

RICHARD PETERS, Sec'y.

Major Thos. Proctor to Owen Biddle, 1777.

Morrisstown, Jany 17th, 1777.

Much Esteemed Sir,

So trivial are the Occurrances that has pass'd between us and the Enemy during our ru'ss in this place, would be but small to mention them, believing you are in the Cabinet of earliest inteligence. But such as they are have handed them to your worthy Colliagues, Blewer and Bull, as Correct as I could gather them. Yesterday Genl Mifflin mentioned the difficulty he had to Continue the Militia, as one hundred of these who voted staying during a medium time were this morning about to return, until stop'd by him. They have rec'd every benefice, more than equal to their services, such as receiving Shirts, Breeches, Shoes & Stockings, &c., and would they stay and wear them out in service, they were designed for, would be acting in character, my mens necessity mentioned in my last is doubled, by reason of Capt., Strochbank Joining me yesterday, his men in a measure bare-footed, and exceeding hearty, have applied to the Genl for shoes but rec'd none, as they militia took the whole. Sir please to offer the brass six p^dr took at Princetown, as my property, a Gift to the State of Pennsylvania, making it theirs in the arrangement of Artillery argussed suitably for the field. Otherwise it may be arranged Continantal and perhaps find a way with other stores to New England. Just this moment rec'd advice by one of the Militia whose station was within three miles of Brunswick for three days past, and returned here, that the enemy are moving their baggage with all haste towards Amboy, believes they are Imbarquing the same, the party he belonged to took 400 Bushells of Salt at Spank Town; the Enemy never Patrole less than 500 men, such is their fear of our approach. This day Genl Knox departs for some time to New England, leaving me the Command of the Artillery, as there's no Colonels pres^t. Would providence favour This opportunity of mine, and grant an Ingagement with success, should living, or dieing be hapy. I have by same Conveyance wrote the Councel of Safety, at request of Genl Knox, for their approbation to Join the Continantal Train of Artillery. I wish the Distinction between Continantal and Provincial were extinct, as it has caus'd some uneasiness among the regular officers to be commanded by me a Provincial. I am not at a loss to know the distinction between the easy command I enjoyed under your patronage from the present. But tis not ease I seek, at present I am in Service, and while I am wanted here wish to continue. By Order of Genl Knox have ordered Lt Eames to his station at Fort Island. I have an Excellent opportunity for recruiting men, as the generallity of soldiers conceive the highest opinion of the Artillery. Shall count it a favour in hearing from you & first opportunity.

and remain Dr Sir,

your most Obd't Humble Servant,

To Owen Biddle, Esqr. THOS. PROCTOR.

JAMES MEASE TO COUNCIL, &c., 1777.

Dr Sir,

I beg the favor of you to inform the Council that in consequence of a resolution of Congress for appointing a Clothier General for the Army of the United States, his Excellency General Washington hath been pleased to honor me with the appointment to that office.

From the resolution of Congress for the creation of this office, it appears to me to have been their design, to put the procuring, distributing, & direction of all clothing under one head, that by this means some system might be introduced into the department, & such provision of necessaries made for the troops as the circumstances of the several States would possibly admit.

In order to enable the Clothier Gen[l] more effectually to execute this extensive branch, he is empowered to appoint agents in the several states where it shall appear anything within the line of his department can be obtained, from whose information he will be also enabled to supply as far as possible the deficiency of any article in one state from the redundancy of another, & prevent a competition of purchasers for same commodities at the same place, a thing always injurious to the Publick.

As I understand the Council have been engaged in the purchase of sundry articles within the line of this department, I should be glad to know whether all or any part of them are for the regular army, what quantity of any article they have on hand or under engagement for that purpose? & as I don't apprehend it will be any longer necessary for the Council to ad to the multiplicity of their business by an attention to the minutiæ of this branch, I shall direct the Commissary here to receive such articles as they may have on hand or under engagement, if it should be most agreeable to the Council to deliver them & either order payment for them, or have credit given for them.

I have the pleasure to inform the Council that two very considerable supplies of Clothing have been sent from N. England to the Army, & must nearly reach them by this time, of which consists of 7000 p[r] Shoes, 4000 p[r] Stockings, 888 p[r] Breeches, 1284 Jackets, & 12000 yd's Scots Blanketing & Plaiding. Invo. of the other is not yet come to hand, farther than that there are 1500 p[r] Breeches, & 29 hhds Coats, Jackets, &c. This is exclusive the Alfred's Prize w[h] will be secured for the army, & a Continental Brig w[h] is arrived there with a Cargo cost £3500 sterl[g], of coarse Cloths, Blankets, ticklenbergs, &c., so that upon the whole after some little time when the supplies from the several states are regularly distributed, our troops will not be again distressed in point of Clothing. As I shall always endeavor to conduct this business here in the manner

most agreeable to the Council, so I flatter myself I shall at all times of need have the benefit of their countenance & protection.

I am, with the utmost respect & Esteem,

Sir, your most ob't H'ble Serv't,

JAMES MEASE, C. G.

18 Jan^y, 1777.

Directed,

Thomas Wharton, Jr., Esqr., Chairman of the Council of Safety, Philadelphia.

THOMAS SAVADGE TO COUNCIL, 1777.

Philadelphia, Jany. 18, 1777.

Gentlemen,

The present state of the Pennsylvania saltworks is, that on or about the 23 of December last, Col^nl John Morris of the Jersey Royal Volunteers came with a party of his men to Toms River Bridge by order of Lord Howe, as he himself informed me with, orders to destroy the salt works; I had some intelligence a few days of their desine and resolved to stay at the works and endeavour by some means to prevent the destruction of the works, accordingly when I heard the Colonel & his party where at the river, thought it best to go to him and know the truth of it, when I was introduced to him he told me he had positive orders from Lord How to destroy them but by informing him ye were not altogether publick property and that I had a concern therein, he politely told me he would not destroy them or send any of his party there, but that I must go on no farther at the present, two days afterwards two Noted Tories, John Williams, & Joseph Allen, by names came with orders from Governor Skinner to seize the works for the Kings use, accordingly one of them came to the works the day following and put R for the broad R on each of the buildings, and went away, giving me strict orders to make out an Inventory of every thing belonging to the works, and furnish him with it the Monday following, but on Monday morning they decamped in haste and I have seen no more of them since. My people all left me at the time of their comeing to the river and I have not been able to collect them together since, by reason of having nothing but continental money to pay them with they where chiefly poor men with large families that must have their wages every Saturday and informed me they cannot buy provisions for their families with Continental money, consequently cannot work for me except I could get other money, this I know myself that I can buy pork for 4*d*. old money and 7*d*. continental, wheat 6s. the

old & 8s. cont[l], Rye 4s. old, 5s. continental, corn 3s. 6d. old 5s. continental, and very few that will sell at any price for continental, therefore if it be convenient to this Honb[le] board to give me an order for five hundred pounds, old money, it will enable me to carry on the work with much greater advantage than I otherwise can. It will also be necessary that I have protection from General Putnam for the people I employ, for I understand he has given orders for all the Maliticia to be immeadiately called and those that will not turn out must go to goal, which will prevent my geting any men at all. Likewise am informed that at New York, Lord Howe has a galley nearly completed that carries a Brass 18 p[dr] in her bow & a 12 p[dr] in her stern, with a number swivels, cohorns, &c., and is intended to lay in Toms river and Barnygat Inlet and in consequence will destroy the works if not prevented by some Vessells of the same kind being stationed in y[e] Bay. I am, gentlemen with due respect,

Your most Humble servant

THOMAS SAVADGE.

Directed,

To Hon[ble] the Council of safety of the State of Pennsylvania.

Lord Stirling to Council of Safety, 1777.

Jan[y]., 18, 1776.*

Gent[n],

General Johnston from Maryland informs he Expects 1800 of Militia of that State will be in town in a day or two; by Monday, he thinks, 1000 of them at least will be ready to march for Trentown. He expected to have armed these Troops with arms left by the Maryland troops, from the flying Camp, in your Care. He understands they were sent by your Order to French Creek Factory to be repaired; he would be Glad to Know wether they are repaired, and be put in a way to get 1500 of them as soon as possible, as nothing Else will retard their march immediately.

I am your most

Ob[t] Serv[t],

STIRLING.

Directed,

To the Council of Safety.

* Indorsed 1777.

Gen. Putnam to Council of Safety, 1777.

Princeton, 21st Jan'y, 1777.

Gentlemen:

Capt. Echard and Capt. Fisher of Berks County, have just informed me that their Companies have runaway to a man, except a Lieut. & Sergt., & a Drum.

I hope, Gentlemen, no Pains or Cost will be spared to apprehend these Men and bring them back to their Duty. I think it is of the last Importance that this spirit of Desertion should be crushed in its Infancy, & the Militia taught that there is a Power that can & will detain them. I wish as Part of their Punishment they might be obliged to remain in the Service for several Months, or even till next Fall. Unless timely Severity is used, we shall in a few Days have not a Man of the militia left.

A foraging Party of the Enemy of about 1000 Men, came yesterday as far as Somerset Court House with 100 Waggons & 4 field Pieces. They collected 6 or 700 Head of Cattle, had plundered Fowls, Hams, Butter, Cheese, &c., &c., when a small Party of the Jersey militia posted near that place attacked them, and obliged them to give Way. But this small Body could not oppose the Enemy's Artillery. However they were most seasonably reinforced to the amount of about 400, renewed the attack, put them to flight, retook the whole of their Plunder, with about 50 Waggons & 100 horses, many of them English, and eight Prisoners. We had three men killed and several Wounded. The Enemy left no dead.

I am, Gentlemen, with the

Utmost Esteem, your

most obt Servt

ISRAEL PUTNAM.

Directed,

To The Honble The Council of Safety, Philada.

Lewis Pintard to Council of Safety, 1777.

Baskenridge, 21st Janry, 1777.

Dear Sir:

I got here Sunday Evening, and yesterday waited on General Washington with your letter & that of Mr. Morris's. I was very Politely received by His Excellency & favoured with a letter to General How on the Subject with which I purpose to go in to-

morrow. As soon as in my power will advise you the issue thereof in the meantime.

I am sincerely
your very Hum. Servt,
LEWIS PINTARD.

Directed.

Thomas Wharton, Junr, Esqr, President of the Council of Safety, Philadelphia.

Col. Biddle to Council of Safety, 1777.

Colonel Biddle waits on the Hon'ble Council of Safety from the Hon^e Robt. Morris, Esq., & Major General Gates, to acquaint them that a great number of Militia of Maryland & Continental Troops have arrived in this City, many of whom have not had the Small Pox, and are detained in Town for want of Arms & Accoutrements, which cannot be repaired & provided, as the Citizens are in great numbers now honorably employ'd at Camp in the Jerseys; but the forwarding the Troops now here who are much alarmed at their Stay, and the great Fatigue our City Militia have suffer'd in their late honorable service, with the Consideration of the manifold advantages they may now be of at home in equiping the other Forces has induced them to submit to the Honorable Council whether it would not be most for the good of the Service for them to write to His Excellency, General Washington, to request him to dismiss the City Militia to return home, & to desire that their Arms and Accoutrements may be left at Camp to supply the Troops who may arrive there, and that the Gentlemen of the Militia who have their own Arms & Accoutrements, be paid for or have them replaced.

Council Chamber, Jan. 21, 1777.

Joseph Pennell, A. C. G., to Council of Safety, 1777.

York Town, 21st January, 1777.

Sir,

We are in such a strange State with Respect to Government, that I am much at a loss to know where to apply with Propriety to have a stop put to a growing public Evil; but when I address myself to the President of the Council of Safety I presume I am in no Danger of going far wrong.

Altho "Man cannot live by Bread alone," yet I look upon Bread to be absolutely necessary for the support of our Army; the last Crops of Wheat have been very short and light compared with what have usually been—the great Demand for Liquors has induced the country People to distil large Quantities of Wheat into Whisky, and this appears to me to be increasing so rapidly that I think it my Duty to inform you of it that it may be thrown into the proper Channel for Consideration.

I am, Sir,

With great Respect,

Your H'bl Servt,

JOS. PENNELL, A. G. M.

Directed.

On public Service.

The Honorable Thomas Wharton, Junr., Esquire, Philadelphia.

College, &c., of Philadelphia to Council, 1777.

To the Honble Council of Safety—

The Application of the Faculty of Masters, in Behalf of the College, Academy & Charitable School of Philadelphia—

Gentlemen,

The Interruptions which we have met with in the important Business of *Education* committed to our Charge, compel us once more to make our earnest Application to you for Relief. This Seminary was founded, & has been hitherto supported (with scarce any public Assistance) by the private Benefactions of the Generous Friends of Literature, from various Parts of this Continent, as well as from G. *Britain* & Ireland. It can boast of having raised up Numbers of Youth who now, in the Day of Trial, fill many of the Highest Offices *Religious* & *Civil*, as well as *Military;* and who, by their public Spirit & distinguish'd Abilities, do Honor to their Country & the Place of their Education. These Considerations, we humbly hope, should entitle us to that Protection, and those Exemptions, which in all civilized States, are given to such Institutions, unless in Cases of the most clear and urgent Necessity.

But we have to complain that, as if it were intended *particularly* to distress us, contrary to the General Orders respecting Schools and Places of Worship; and without any Necessity which we could see; without any written Authority, without giving us a moment's previous Notice to remove Books, Papers or Furniture, or even allowing Time to send for the Keys, the Doors of the Schools, Lecture Rooms,

and even Bed Rooms have been forced open by some violent young Men calling themselves Deputies of the Barrack Master; and some Hundreds of Soldiers quartered upon the College at a Time, who have burnt our Wood and dene other Damage, when we have offered to shew, and have actually shewn, Empty Houses, where they could have been far better accommodated. This has been repeated upon us three or four Times within so many Weeks, so that before we could well clear away the Dirt and Filth left by one Set of Soldiers, and meet again in our Places, another Set has been forced upon us; owing to which, we have scarce yet been able to collect together a third Part of the former Number of our Youth: And unless we can be placed upon some more certain Footing, the Schools must either be wholly broken up, or removed to some other Place.

This is a matter of very serious Concern to us, not only on account of the present Set of Youth, who may be thereby deprived of their Opportunity of Education, but on our own Accounts also, whose Livings depend on the Execution of our Duty, and cannot expect to be supported without Service done.

We are perswaded that none who know us, or the Gentlemen concerned in the *Trust* of this Seminary, will think that these Complaints are groundless, or proceed from any Desire to retard the necessary public Service. We only Pray that we may not be *particularly distressed*; that if any Emergency shall arise, when we cannot have that Exemption which is due to Seminaries of Religion and Learning, you yourselves will judge of that Emergency, without leaving us every Moment at the arbitrary Disposal of any Officers under you, or their Deputies; That when any Requisition is to be made, you will be pleased to give us timely Notice, laying no greater Burthen upon us than upon other Places in Proportion; considering the College & its different Schools and Houses, to be duly inhabited and furnished in the same Manner as other Houses are, according to the Purposes for which it was intended and erected. We request your speedy Consideration of the Premises, and are with due Respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Humble

Servants,

WILLIAM SMITH.
FRANCIS ALISON.
JAS. DAVIDSON.
JAMES CANNON.

College of Philada., January 23d, 1777.

P. S. We are now actually incommoded with about 150 Soldiers, our Yard crouded with Horses & Waggons, the Charity Schools disturbed, & the Schoolmistress forced out of her Lodging Rooms.

Lewis Nicola to Council of Safety, 1777.

January 23d, 1777.

Sir,

Capt Barrett of the City Guards has made a demand of £3 for a drum for the use of the Southern district, and also 11 shil. & 6 pence for a new head to it, the first article he has a right to but the second appears to me unreasonable, as I cannot find out how a new drum that has been very little used should require a new head in less than 6 weeks, therefore informed him I could not allow it without an order. I shall be obliged to you if you will apply to the Council for some money to pay for the drum and other contingencies. I am, Sir,

Your most obed't Serv't,

LEWIS NICOLA.

Directed,

To the Secretary to the Hon'ble Council of Safety.

Thos. Casdorp to Council, 1777.

Philada., 24 January, 1777

To the Honourable
Council of Safety.

Gentlemen:

When I was at Ticonderoga last Summer building Gallies: I have the Honour to acquaint you that I invented a New model of Swivell Skids for Gun Carriages, which was handed to General Arnold for his Approbation, and was approv'd off, which General Gates and most of his officers can inform you off. And as I am Certain that the Invention will be of great use to the Publick, Shall be glad to hand it to my fellow Citizens, not to have a Patent, but to serve my Country. My request to your Honourable Board is, that I may have the Liberty of Altering one of the Gallies Skids, the expense is So Trifling, that Should it not be approv'd off, I will replace it at my own expence, as I am well Assured the Invention will meet with your Approbation. Should your Honourable Board want a farther explanation I will at any time wait on you. I am, Gentlemen, with the Greatest Respect, your very Humble Servant,

THOS. CASDORP.

Col. John Bull to Council, 1777.

Sir,

We have left the Council without any Instructions and Wether we are to have any or Who shall give them, Congress, Council of Safety, or Assembly I will not undertake to say, but when I waited upon Mr. Robert Morris, he Informed me that they Had wrote to to Congress, and that if any answer arrivd In time it ought to be sent forward to Eastown.* I take the Liberty of Communicating a few hints which I think ought to be attended to unless we are Instructed to the Contrary. If we find them well Disposed, shall Endeavour to Cultivate a good understanding with them, and Likewise Lay the Ground work of a Greater Treaty next Summer at such time and Place as may Suit them best, I think under our Circumstances Something Bestowed in that way to Continue the friendship of the Indians may be of infinite advantage under our present struggle, at the same time it will be Necesary to assure them of our own Sufficiency and Strength in Carrying on the War against our Enemies, how farr it will be Prudent or Practicable to Explain the Cause thereof I have as yet not fully Deliberated upon.

I am, Sir, with Due Respect, your
verry Hu'ble Servt,
JOHN BULL.

Norriton, Jan'y 26, 1777, 8 o'clock A. M.

Directed,
To The Hon^t. Thomas Wharton, Esq., Presd^t. Council of Safety.

Orders, Lewis Nicola to Col. Melcher, 1777.

January 26th, 1777.

The Barrack master general's deputys are daily to visit all houses in which troops are quartered, and report to the general any damage done thereto, & by what corps occupied.

The Barrack master general is to have every house occupied by troops, that are now, or may hereafter be quartered in the city, cleaned as often as such troops march out.

By General Mifflin's order.
LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Directed,
Coll. Melcher.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 98.

CHRISTN. WIRTZ, T. M. TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Lancaster, 27th January, 1777.

Thomas Wharton, Esqr:

Sir, I am Sorry that I am oblig^d to trouble you with the present, but as it is occasioned by my forgetfulness, I hope youll excuse me. The pressing demand for Salt in this place, obliges me to apply to you for a supply of that Article at present. The prisoners have had none since the came here, and what is far worse, The Militia who are daily Marching thro' this place cannot be suppl^d with the Smallest quantity; a circumstance that occasions great Complaints. I hope you'll take some method to remedy this grievance as soon as possible. I am, with much respect,

Sir, Your Most obed^t humble Servant,

CHRISTIAN WIRTZ, Town Major.

Directed,

Thomas Wharton, Jn^r, Esq., President of the Council of Safety, Philadelphia.

JOHN PROCTOR, TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1777.

Carlisle, Janury ye 27th, 1777.

Dear Sir:

I am one My Martch with a party of Melisha from the County of Westemoreland, of the first Batallion, of about 240; we are like to be Scarse of Cash, and will not be able to Retch Philadelphia with out a Suplay, and hawve Dispatched the Bairor, Leut^n Coll^n Archabeld Lochry to your Honourable Bord, and I hope you will Send by Him the Sum whitch you may think Nesery. Vitlin is Very high, and Hard to be got.

I am, Sir,

youre Very Humble Servt,

JOHN PROCTOR.*

Directed,

On the Service of the United States. To the Presedant of Counceal in Philadelphia.

by favour Sent
Colln. Lachry.

*See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI, p. 110.

Col. Jno. Bull to Council of Safety. 1777.

Sir:

We are Just arrived at Eastown, where we found about the same Number of Indiens we expected, and Tolerably well Disposed, tho' much in want of almost Every Necessary, one article In Particular, Viz., about fifteen Camp Kettles, not of the largest Size; the Bearer of this Comes Express with two Horses On Purpose to bring them up. Please to Let Mr. Howel Dispatch him Immediately, as it will be absolutely Necessary they should be here before we make a Distribution of the goods. We this morning heard by a Gent^n from head quarters, which he Left Two Days ago, that Forts Independance and Washington, are Realy taken. If you have anything New, Pray send it.

I am, Sir, with Due Respect,
your Hubl. Servt,
JN^o BULL.

Eastown, Janry. 28, 1777, 9 aClock, A. M.

N. B. Please to Send the Medals which Mr. Syng promised to Send to the Council, if they are Come to hand,—if not, send the Messenger without them, as they are not of so much Consequence.

J. B.

Directed,

To The Hon^l Thomas Wharton, Esq., Presidt. of ye Council of Safety.

Thos. Hale to Council of Safety, 1777.

Morris Town, Jany 28, 1777.

Gentlemen:

Two or three Day ago I receved a hint from Capt. Corren that a Draught of the 5½ Inch Howetzs. that are in this place would be of service, as there was an intention of Casting some of the Same sorts in Philadelphia. I have with some difficulty been able to procure Instruments to make a rough Thouh a True Draught of one of them, which I herewith send. Should it be of any service 'tis well, if not I am content, and remain your most

Obedient & Humble Servant,
THOS. HALE.

Directed.

To The Honourable the Counsil of Safety of Pensylvania.

Maj. Ennion Williams to Council of Safety, 1777.

Philadelphia, January 28th, 1777.

Sir,

By the Promotion or appointment of Doctor Reiger in the Continental Service, our Regiment is without a Surgeon.

Doctor John Davis who was Surgeon to the 1st Batalion and taken Prisoner with Colonel Miles, is now exchang'd, and informs me by his Letter just come to Hand, that he prefers entering the same Corps to any other.

His Character is exceeding fair, and his Conduct while with the Regiment universally approved of; and I dare venture to say, his appointment in that Corps will give great satisfaction.

I am Sir,

Your very humble Servant.

ENNION WILLIAMS.

Directed.

To Thos Wharton, Esq., President of the Council of Safety.

James Read to Samuel Morris, 1777.

Dear Sir,

As you have much at Heart the Happiness of this Country, and have taken a very active Part in the glorious opposition the United States of America are giving to the King and Parliament of Great Britain, who have long been devising Schemes for our Ruin, and are in actual Rebellion against the natural Rights of Mankind, I take the Freedom to suggest to you that, the more effectually to maintain the present prevailing Zeal of this and other Counties distant from the City, it will be proper at all Times to spread among us as much as possible all the Resolves and Orders which the Congress or our honorable Council of Safety publish in the City, and I cannot but, with Sorrow, observe that we hardly ever see any of them. I know of but two Copies of the Resolves relating to the Continental Currency, made so long since as the first (I think,) of this month, that have reach'd thus far in the Country; so that Our Inhabitants are ignorant of them. I have seen *but one* of the Letters of the Council relative to the kind Treatment of the Hessians—and that was shewn me by a Gentleman from Lancaster, who, when he left Reading, took it away with him. As the Country are generally irritated against them, I fear that some of them who desert

and come this way, (as 4 of the Waldeckers did last week,) may be maltreated. . . . .

I should heartily be pleased to see the Crisis published in the German Language and distributed, with several other valuable pieces which have been publish'd in Philad^a. They would be of use to prevent the evil Influence which the Arts of our intestine enemies might otherwise have. Too, too many vile Falsehoods are circulated among the Farmers. Our Committee are come to a solemn Determination to punish every Offender of what Rank soever he may be, and without any Regard to his Connections, which latter Consideration has hitherto prevented some Enquiries.

I wish we had a Post-rider to come weekly from the City; the Service it wou'd be of to the Public would very fully answer the Expence.

I am obliged to write in great Haste, or I should mention some other matters worthy Consideration, which I will not fail to write about in a few Days. I heartily wish you a pleasant Journey.

I am Sir,

Your obedient hble. Servt,

JAMES READ.

Reading, January 28, 1777.

Directed,

To Samuel Morris, Esquire, Captain of Light Horse.

JOHN HAZELWOOD TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1777.

For The Hon^bl Councle of Safety.

Gentlemen,

As its now time for us to be Imployd In prepearing and geting in Order our fire fleet and armed Boats, to be as Earley as possible fit for action, Thought Proper to lay before you our wants for That purpos, Vis^t. :—

For the appointment of two Cap^ts for two armd boats. The one that Came upp from the Capes, the Other now allmost Built. I whould wish To Recommend my son, Thomas Hazelwood, for one, and Mr Brown, Leiutnent of the fire Brig, For the Other. & I whould wish to have an order On m^r Towers for what we may want for the making Fals fires, Sky Rocketts, & some Port fires, as night Signales for our fleet, & an order on Mr. Richards for what we may whant of him.

I am, Gen^ts, your

Very Hum^bl Srv^t,

JOHN HAZELWOOD.

Jan'y 29th, 1777.

Col. Melcher to Council &c., 1777.

Philada 31 Jan. 1777.

Gent.

I Sent Mr Shaffer & Mr Pastorias to view the *Buildings* at the air furnace, Agreeable to Mr Rittenhouse's desire, they are of opinion that they may be very easily fitted to accommodate abt one hundred & twenty Men—they likewise seen Mr Steinmetz's houses which will contain about seventy Men, they may be finished in less than a fortnight, Mr Steinmetz expects to receive forty two pounds p ann. for the whole. I wait your orders for my Government.

and am with much Respect

Gent. your most Obd. Servt

ISAAC MELCHER.

Directed.

To The H'ble Council of Safety p'sent.

Gent.

My father is about to Erect a Nail factory about a Mile from this City wh will be of publick utility & perhaps may merit your sanction, will he be permitted to Employ such of the Hessian Prisoners as may be inclined to work? I shall be much oblig'd if you'd be pleased to consult the H'ble Council on that head.

I am Gent.

Your most Ob'd Servt

ISAAC MELCHER.

Directed,

To the H'ble Thomas Wharton & Owen Biddle, Esqrs.

Orders, Gen. Gates, 1777.

Jany. 31, 1777.

It is General Gates's orders that Col. Melcher appoints a proper person to quarter the Troops that are to March to Germantown, and also a proper person at each of the three Ferries of which a list has been given to Col. Melcher each of which persons is to shew the following order to the officer commanding every Regiment, Company or detachment passing the ferries.

It is General Gates's orders that none of the Troops coming from Maryland or Virginia into the City of Philada. to avoid the Small pox, with which several persons are attacked, but march directly to Germantown.

L. NICOLA T. M.

MAJOR PROCTOR TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY 1777.

Morristown, January 31st 1777.

Sir,

By some conveyance you will receive a letter from his Excellency Gen. Washington, respecting a draft of Sixty men from the Artillery of your State to be sent as speedy as possible to Head Quarters at Morristown to supply the Vacancy's made by the Militia Artillery, whose cannon for the want of men are almost useless. Moreover the Artillery men from the Northerin department will continue no longer than 12th February next, that I concieve there is the greatest necessity for your sending such number of men as can be spared for a season from your service, to be sent under the command of Captain Lt. Courtney, Lieut. Eams taking charge of the residue of the men that may remain and if necessity require our places be suppli'd by Coll. Mifflin, &c., untill you may think proper to remand us back again.

I beg leave to recommend to your Honours Sergeant Robert McConnel whome I referr'd for your gift of Lieut, in a former letter the place being still vacant, hope he may be thought worthy, and can assure you, his usual manner is Soldierly, and has the approbation of the Core of Officers. Yesterday Sundry deserters from the Artillery made their elopement under the Sanction of their times of Enlistment being expired, and being discharged by his Excellency, the latter proved to be false, and to the former some exceptions. They are suspected of having each stole a Horse; as such a number of Horses were taken out of the Commissary' General's stable the same night they went away, hope you'l Issue a process against such persons as hereafter mentioned to be confined, as their Villany is too conspicious to be deny'd, Viz: Geo. May Twice broke for refusing to go on command, to Fort Montgomery, and Trenton, when legally summoned and now most assuredly Expects a Commission under your honours, the others are Pharker McPherson, James Wilkins, Henry Suitor, Thomas Dobson Isaac Spaford, Deserters in the Artillery, and Army, in General are so prevalent that the wellfare of the States are Indangered, this day made an Example of a Deserter and theif by giving him 300 lashes and Drum'd him out with halter about his neck in presence of Numbers of Soldiers.

I should be proud to know your pleasure with me Respecting Gen. Knox's request.

I remain ye most

humble Servant.

THOS. PROCTOR.

This day Colonel Burknard is under tryal for supos'd Cowardize in a late action near Ambois.

Directed,

To the Chairman in Council.

Col. John Bull to Council of Safety, 1777.

[Easton] Jany 31, 1777.

Sir,

The Delegates from Congress Colls. Taylor & Walton ariv'd on Wensday ye 29th and yesterday ye 30th we open'd the Treaty, When the Indians Delivr'd Two Strings, Three Belts and about half their Talk They having Three belts more to deliver this Day, the Indians seem to be Inclind to act the wise Part, with Respect to the present Dispute if they are to be relied on they mean to be Neuter, we have already Learnt their good Intentions & Great Expectations in Receiving Presents. However I think we have full as much with us as will satisfy them, we have not a word of news here, more Soldiers Returning from, than there are going to the Camp, I hope that is not the case in Philada.

I am Sir with

Comp^s to my Brethren

your Hubl. Servt

JNO. BULL.

Directed.

To the Hon^e Thos Wharton Esq., Presid^t Council of Safety.

Genl. Putnam to Council of Safety, 1777.

Princeton, 31st Jan^y, 1777.

Gentlemen,

I shall this Day forward to you 15 Prisoners taken by different Scouting Parties, and several Deserters. We have no News since I last wrote you. The Militia of your State are all returning. No Arguments can prevail on them to stay Day beyond their 6 Weeks

The Affairs of Monmouth wear a more favourable Aspect. The People of that County will, I am in hopes, return again to their Duty. Col. Furman is sent there to command and put them in a proper state of Defence.

The exorbitant Prices of every Necessary Convenience of Life at Philad^a, are (if I am rightly informed), discouraging, distressing, and truly alarming. The Conduct of the New England Governments, in this Particular, I think really laudable, and exemplary. They have (by Committee from the different States) fixed the Prices of every Article and employment, even to the Barbers, which I now recollect is 3^d p. Man, and other Things proportionably reasonable. This, Gentlemen, appears to me a Matter of vast Importance, as such I beg leave to submit it to your most serious Consideration, and doubt not the Measures which your Wisdom shall point out, will be such as our present Necessities require and the Circumstances of the Times will admit.

I am, Gentlemen,
with the utmost Esteem,
Your most ob^t serv^t,
ISRAEL PUTNAM.

P. S. Dan Carroll and Wm Hervey, two Deserters from the 32^d Reg^t, are Trades Men, and would be glad of employ. You will please to notice them.

ISRAEL PUTNAM.

Directed,
To The Honble Thos Wharton, Esqr, Pres^t of ye Council of Safety, Philad^a.

Recruiting Instructions for Capt. Isaac Coren, Director of the Laboratory for the United States.

You are hereby authorized to Inlist in any of the United States of America, all such able Bodied men as are willing to Enter into the Service and pay of the States, being under the Character of a Soldier being within the Descriptions, and upon Directions hereafter annexed, viz: First, you are not to Inlist none but Freemen above the age of seventeen, and under that of fifty, of sufficient stature & ability of body to Discharge all the offices of a private Soldier, to be free from Lameness, or other Bodily Infirmities that may Render them Incapable of Supporting the fatigues of a Camp. Secondly, you are not to Enlist any Deserter from the army of the King of Great Britain, or any person of Disaffected or Suspicious principles, with Regard to the American Cause. Thirdly, you are to Enlist to Serve, during the present War with Great Britain or, For three years, unless sooner discharged by proper authority. Fourthly,

Every Soldier Enlisted as soon as may be, to be engaged before some peace officer, Judge advocate, or some of his Deputies, agreeable to the section of the article of War. Every person so engaged to be mustered before the muster master General, or some of his Deputies, if they are within a reasonable distance, if not, before Some Major General, Brigadier Col^l, Commanding a Brigade; a surgeon to be present; all the Charge and Expences for Every Soldier Enlisted, that may not pass Muster for defects pointed out in these Instructions, shall be paid by the officer that engaged them; you are hereby authorized and employed to give as a reward and promise in behalf of the public service, said engagement, to every noncommissioned officer & soldier that shall Enlist over and above the pay of the Continental Artillery, and provision allready allowed, that they shall Receive a Bounty of Twenty Dollars & a suit of Cloathes, the Cloathes to be given annually as long as they Continue in the Service, & at the End of three years, or the End of the War, Every private or noncommissioned officer that Compleats his Service agreeable to his engagement, shall be entitled to one Hundred acres of Land. Those that Die or are Kill^d in the Service, their Legal Representatives are to be Intitled to the Same as a further Encouragement. You are hereby authorised to promise that all that are unfortunately maimed in the Service, and rendered in the Service Incapable of Geting a Support, Shall Receive half pay During their natural Lifes, agreeable to the Resolve of Congress in that Case made and provided, and as a further Encouragement to the Soldiers to be Enlisted as Laboratory-men, you may promise the privates one Dollar per month, over and above the provision already made, and to the Sergeants two Dollars ℔ month, and to the Bombadiers & Corporals one Dollar & ½ ℔ month, the above aditional pay is only to Continue while they are Employed in the Laboratory.

BENJA FLOWER, Cms'ry M. M.

Philadelphia, Feby 1st, 1777.

Agreeable to the Instructions from his Excellency Genl Washington.

Christian Wirtz, T. M., to Council, 1777.

Lancaster, 1st Febr^y, 1777.

Thos. Wharton, Esqr., Sir,

It gives me real uneasiness that I deem it my indispensible duty to trouble you with my own Sentiments, relative to an Affair which appears to me to be of the utmost utility in this place. From the very considerable quantity of Gunpowder resposited here (which not less than 19 Tuns and more expected daily) I think it would be absolutely necessary, as well for the Publick safety, as that of the

Ammunition, to have a proper Magazine erected for the Purpose of containing Public Stores of all kinds, especially as there is no building here at present proper for that purpose. Should this proposal meet with your Approbation, I conceive it would be proper to begin to provide necessary Materials for that Purpose before the Season of Building begins, which I shall take proper care to see performed in the best Manner my Abilitys will Admit of. I hope you'll favour me with an Answer as soon as Possible, and am with due Respect,

Sir, your most
Obed't Serv't,
CHRISTIAN WIRTZ, Major.

Powder Magazine & Stores, } Necessary for this State, ought to be thought of immediately, as the House now rented for that purpose is full.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, Esqr., Philadelphia, at Council Safety.

J. HARSHALL TO MAJ. ENNION WILLIAMS, 1777.

Chatham, Feby 1st, 1777.

Sir,

My so long defering writing to you was sometimes for want of an opportunity, and when that offer'd had not any paper. I shall Just give you a brief acc^t of our proceedings since you left us. A few days after we arriv'd at this place, a party of our Reg^t was ordered out on a scout with Col. Weine, who met with a party of the plunderers, had a small skirmish with them, in which we lost Serj^t Weaver. Soon after a large party was ordered out; Messrs Robb, Sneider, & myself was in the number, the whole was commanded by Col. B——r, from Virginia, a man who has distinguish'd himself for, I was going to say cowardice, but shall only impute it to his weakly constitution not agreeing with the smell of sulphur; but to give you a more particular acc^t of the matter, our body consisted of about 300 men, (officers included,) who met with upwards of Double the number, near Bonum Town, we were posted in a very advantageous piece of ground, with a great plenty of Timber, the Enemy were in the open field with two field pieces, but were twice repuls'd as they attempted to gain the woods, after fighting near half an hour we were obliged to retreat, and to the great surprise of every one, without the loss either of one man or blood, except one cowardly fellow who was much confus'd in running off, ran into a briar bush which scratch'd his hand that the blood appear'd. Our

Col. however took care to push off at the first fire in order to make a safe retreat.

It is said the Enemy had that day kill'd & wounded upwards of seventy, many of which were officers of distinction.

Mr. Hufner is just arrived with seventeen men, which if like those heretofore, will be only an additional trouble to us, as they are much dissatisfied, some wanting money, &c. I shou'd be glad how soon some more of the officers, or the whole Reg^t was ordered here, or were called to Philad^a, many indeed has gone without my leave.

You'l Please S^r give my compliments to
Gentlemen, the officers of our Corps,
except Mr. Robb's & Soiergen's Complim^ts.

believe me to be Dea^r S^r,
your most Obed't
H'ble Serv't,
J. HARSHALL.

Directed,

To Major Enion Williams, in the Penn^a. Rifle Reg^t, Philadelphia.

MAJ. ENNION WILLIAMS TO COUNCIL, 1777.

Philadelphia, February 4th, 1777.

Sir,

Agreeable to General Washington's Instruction to me, there are a Number of the officers sent on the Recruiting Service, and others are collecting the Straglers and Deserters from the Regiment.

Philadelphia is appointed the Place of Rendevous, and I have given such other Directions as appear'd to me for the Benefit of the Regiment.

Captain Farmer is the next officer in Rank, and is recovered so much as to attend to the Care of the Regiment. Captain Anderson, Capt. Garret, and several Subaltern officers sufficient to attend to the Duty here, are now in the City.

The several Promotions above me renders my Station no longer honorable, I therefore request that the Council will accept of my Commission which is here inclosed.

I am, Sir,
with great Esteem,
your very humble Serv't,
ENNION WILLIAMS.*

Directed.

Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of the Honorable the Council of Safety in Pennsylvania.

* His resignation accepted, and Lewis Farmer appointed to succeed him Feb. 6th. Col. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 116.

Expenses of the Committee of Safety, 1776.

The Committee of Safety.

Dec. 1776.			
12, Dinner,	£1	10	0
Wine,		15	0
Punch & Beer,		5	6
13, Dinner,	1	10	0
Wine,		15	0
Punch & Porter,		5	6
14, Dinner,	1	10	
Wine,		15	
Punch,		5	
15, Dinner,	1	10	
Wine,		15	
Punch & Beer,		3	
16, Dinner,	1	10	
Wine,		15	
Punch & Beer,		5	
Supper,		14	
Wine,		15	
17, Dinner.	1	10	
Wine,	1	2	6
Toddy & Beer,		4	6
18, Dinner,	1	10	
Wine,		15	
Beer,		1	6
Coffee,		10	6
19, Dinner,	1	10	
Wine,	1	2	6
Toddy & Beer,		3	6
20, Dinner,	1	10	
Wine,	1	2	6
Toddy, Porter, Beer,		5	6
21, Dinner,	1	10	
Wine,	1	2	6
Toddy, Porter & Beer,	1	5	6
22, Dinner,	1	10	6
Wine,		7	6
Toddy & Beer,		3	6
23, Dinner,	1	10	
Wine,		15	
Porter,		3	
24, Dinner,	1	10	
Wine,		15	
Porter,		3	
Coffee,		12	
25, Dinner,	1	10	
Dec. 1776.			
Wine,	1	2	6
Porter,		8	
Coffee,		10	6
26, Dinner,	1	10	
Wine,		15	
Porter,		8	
27, Dinner,	1	10	
Wine,	1	2	6
Toddy & Beer,		3	6
Coffee,		10	6
China Broke,		2	6
28, Dinner,	1	10	
Wine,		15	
Porter & Beer,		4	6
29, Dinner,	1	10	
30, Dinner,	1	10	
Toddy,		2	6
Wine,	1	10	
Porter & Beer,		4	6
31, Dinner,	1	10	
Wine,	1	2	6
Porter & Beer,		4	6
Jan. 1, 1777.			
Dinner,	1	10	
Wine,	1	2	6
Porter,		3	
2, Dinner,	1	10	
Wine,	1	2	6
Porter & Toddy,		5	6
3, Dinner,	1	10	
Wine,	1	2	6
Porter & Toddy,		8	
Coffee,		12	
4, Dinner,	1	10	
Wine,	1	2	6
Porter & Toddy,		8	
5, Dinner,	1	10	
Wine,		7	6
Porter & Toddy,		5	6
6, Dinner,	1	10	
Wine,		15	
Porter & Toddy,		8	
Coffee,		12	
7, Dinner,	1	10	

Jan. 1777.			
7,	Wine,		15
	Porter & Toddy,	5	6
8,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,		15
	Toddy Beer & Porter,		7
	Coffee,		9
9,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,		15
	Toddy Porter & Beer,		7
	Coffee,	4	6
10,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,		15
	Toddy Porter & Beer,		7
	Coffee,	4	6
11,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,		15
	Toddy Porter & Beer,	7	6
	Coffee,	4	6
12,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,		15
	Porter & Beer,	7	6
	The Porter's Dinner 26 Days,	1	6
	Glass Broke,	2	6
13,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,		15
	Toddy Porter & Beer,		7
14,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,	1	17 6
	Toddy Porter & Beer,		7
	Toddy,	2	6
15,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,	7	6
	Toddy Porter & Beer,		7
16,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,	7	6
	Toddy Porter & Beer,		7
17,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,	1	10
	Toddy Porter & Beer,	7	6
18,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,	1	
	Toddy Porter & Beer,	7	6
19,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,	1	
	Toddy Porter & Beer,	9	6
20,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,	1	
Jan. 1777.			
20,	Toddy Porter & Beer,		7
21,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,		15
	Toddy Porter & Beer,		7
22,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,	1	
	Toddy Porter & Beer,		7
	Sangre,		11
23,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,	1	
	Toddy Porter & Beer,		7
24,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,	1	
	Toddy Porter & Beer,		12
25,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,	1	10
	Toddy Porter & Beer,		7
27,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,	1	
	Toddy Porter & Beer,		7
28,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,	1	
	Toddy Porter & Beer,		7
29,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,	1	
	Toddy Porter & Beer,		7
	Pheason Beer & Cheese,		6
30,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,	3	10
	Toddy Porter & Beer,	9	10
31,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,		10
	Toddy Porter & Beer,		7
Feb.			
1,	Dinner,		12
	Wine,		10
	Toddy & Beer,	3	6
2,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,	1	
	Toddy Porter & Beer,		7
3,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,	1	
	Toddy Porter & Beer,		7
4,	Dinner,	1	10
	Wine,		10
	Toddy Porter & Beer,		7
		£156	2 10

Order to Col. Melcher, 1777

In Council of Safety, Feby 7th 1777.

Sir,

You are hereby directed to Examine the Houses in this City & Liberties occupied as Barracks & Clear as many of them as possible by removing the Soldiers where they are but few & collecting them so as to keep those Houses that are still retained as Barracks properly fill'd. It is particularly desired by this Council that you remove the few that are in Mr. Wisharts House & get proper persons to examine the Damages done, that it may be paid, & in general whenever you give up a House you are to have it clean'd & restore it to the Proprietor thereof in decent good order.

Directed.

To Col. Melcher.

Gen. Putnam to Council, 1777.

Princeton, Feby 8th, 1777

Gentlemen,

Nothing extraordinary has happened since my last—His Excellency still remains at Morris Town, Gen'l. Warner at Bound Brook & Gen'l. Dickinson at Somerset, have sent under guard of Major Vanse's men —— prisoners who were left here, as tenders on the Sick & Wounded, belonging to the British Army.

I am Gentlemen your

Hum^e Servt.

ISRAEL PUTNAM.

Directed.

To the Honorable Council of Safety, Philada.

Danl. Putnam aid to Gen, P., 1777.

Princeton, Feb. 8, 1777.

Corporal Gibson, Wm Hamilton, Wm Taylor, & Robert Henderson, have been left here to take care of the sick & wounded, & have beha-

ved themselves very orderly & sober, I do therefore recommend that they may have their liberty & not be put in close confinement.

DANIEL PUTNAM.
Aid de Camp, to
GEN. PUTNAM.

Directed.
To the Commanding officer of the Prison.

JAMES SEARLE TO ROB. MORRIS, 1777.

Bristol, Thursday Evening,
6 o'clock.

My Dr Sir,

I have just reached this place from the sea side wch I left two Hours later than the Express of yesterday by whom I had the pleasure to write you. At 2 o'clock yesterday the whole Fleet, consisting of something under one hundred Sail, altered their course, wind still at N. West, & stood to the eastward with a fresh breese & by 3 o'clock, at which time I left the shoar, they were nearly all under the Horizon For some time after they came round the hook they stood to the southward & continued that course till after the Express went off. Two of their convoy (Frigates) continued standing to the southward after the Fleet had Chang'd their course but I soon found they were standing out to speak an inward bound Frigate, from the southward. I do not know but this intelligence may be of importance and have therefore sent a man express with it.

I am, my Dr Sir,
Your affect & Devoted Friend, &c.
JAMES SEARLE.

Directed.
On Continental Service, Robert Morris, Esqr., Philadelphia.
☞ Express.
Indorsed,—Mr. Bradford is requested to send this letter immediately to Mr. Morris. J. Searle, Bristol, half after six.

THOS. SAVADGE TO COUNCIL, 1777.

Pennsylvania Salt works, Feb. 10, 1777.

Sir,

You will please to lay the enclosed before the Honble Council and assist Mr Salter the bearer hereof in getting such things as they order, in particular dont fail sending the stove pipes, there being some of the Militia here and no conveniences for them but in the stoves, the medicine chest is as necessary an article as anything for

if any of these people should be wounded there is no Doctor in less than thirty miles, therefore should be glad to be provided a small usefull chest if the Council thinks proper.

I remain with due respect,

Your Hble Servt.

THOS. SAVADGE.

Directed,

To Jacob Howell, Esqr, Sectry to the Hon. Council of Safety of the State of Pennsylvania.

THOS. SAVADGE TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1777.

Pensylvania Saltworks, Feb. 10, 1777.

Gentm,

On Monday, the 27th of last month, a small Sloop or tender came into this inlett, Maned Chiefly by Tories, Who Went on board a sloop belonging to Mr James Randolph & Others, with intent to take her Out; but not being able to accomplish that, plundered her of What they Could and went off on seeing a small party of Militia coming down from the head of the river, who happened to get intelligence of their being in; their buisness, I am informed, was to cary Out the Sloop, and a prize schooner that has lain here some time, and I apprehend belongs to Congress in part, (but am not certain in that point) then to destroy these Works, Which it seems they are determined to Do if possible.

On Monday, the 3rd inst. they came again; went to Mr Randolph's house, took the schooner's Sails and rigging, Carryed it on board, and attempted on Tuesday morning, to carry her Off; but running her aground Opposite these Works, left her and went on board Mr Randolph's Sloop & Stripped her of her sails & riging and what more ye could take in their boats and stood out to sea; there being a small party of Militia at these works at the same time, and another party on good luck point which is near Were Mr. Randolph's Sloop lay, and who, in my opinion, might have taken the Tories and Sloop had there been either good Officers or Men; but the Militia of this part of the Country are by no means Calculated for the defence thereof; for more than half of them are Tories, and the rest but little better.

I am of Opinion that if this part of the Country is to be defended it must be by Continental troops, who know their duty, or Militia of another State: also one or two Gallys to protect this and the Neighbouring inletts. I am in expectation of another Vissett from them, being informed that Colonel Morris is preparing a strong party to Come by land, & at the Same time two Tenders or a Galley are to

come into the inlett. If this be true, the Works are gone and every thing else they please; for the people here Will Chiefly take part With them as soon as there Appears a Sufficient number to repel the few Militia that there is any dependence on. If troops are stationed here, there must be barracks built for their Accomodation, there not being room in the Works for them Without the Greatest inconvenience; or inhabitants in the Neighbourhood to Billet them on. Whatever Accomodations May be thought proper to be provided for them, I shall do every thing in My power to forward, Agreable to the Instructions I receive, in the best Manner I can. I find it Very difficult getting My people together; some are gone to the regulars, & Some hid & run away; others joined their respective Companies of Militia, and on duty. I have got Gen. Putnam's protection for them, & shall Make Use of it the best manner I can, and do every thing in My power to Carry the Works into execution as Soon as possible; but the season is much Against me. Provisions his Scarce to be had Without Old Money; then I could find enough Beef I can get none, yet have got but 1800lb of pork, that at 5d dont know that I can get any more.

I have Sent Mr Wm Salter, the bearer hereof, With a Wagon for the following Articles, Which I much Want and cannot be Without: One dozn Blankets, there being None to be had in this part of the Country; one barrell of rum, a good Spy Glass, a Small Medicine Chest, With salves &c., and the Stove pipes. Mr Howell knows of the rest of his load he Will have ready at my house. Please to Order him dispatched as soon as possible, he being hired by the day, and Some of the Articles he is to bring Very Much Wanted.

I remain, Genmn,

Your Most Humble Servt,

THO: SAVADGE.*

Directed,

To The Hon. Council of Safety of the State of Pensylvania.

David Potter to the Council of Safety, 1777.

Rariton, near Millston, 11th Febr'y., 1777.

Gentlemen,

This Serves to inform you, ℘ Orders from General Dickinson, in whose Brigade I am, to forward me ℘ the Bearer, Constant Smith, Forty Stand of Arms and Accoutriments as ℘ Inventory Inclosed: as the Men are now here who are to Stand till the first of April; Beg the Bearer to be dispatch'd as Soon as possable. The Genl has

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 126.

Likewise Sent ℔ S'd Conveyance 10 guns, which he requests may be Sent to the Armors to be repaird,

and am, with due respect, Sirs,

Your Very Humb' Serv'

DAV' POTTER.

40 Guns & Bayonets.
30 Catarage Boxes.

Directed,
To The Honourable, the Councill of Saifty in Philadelphia.
℔ Constant }
Smith. }

JOHN HANCOCK TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1777.

Baltimore, 11th Febr', 1777.

Gentlemen:

The Bearer of this, Mr. Dickinson, is the Owner of the Waggon supplied Capt. Casdrop for the purpose of transport' the money order'd to you by Congress. His waggon was Return'd, & to this Day no notice is taken of him, or any Directions rec'd as to the Discharge of the hire. I Beg to call yo' attention to him, and that you will please to order him paym'. I now have his Waggon in Employ, but it was difficult to obtain it, as the paym' for the former hire was not made. These Delays prejudice the Service, & surely Cap' Casdrop ought to have seen the waggon properly Discharg'd.

I am with Respct, Gen',

Your most hum. sv',

JOHN HANCOCK.

Directed—
To the Hon' Council of Safety of Pennsylv', Philadel'.

ORDERS TO CITY GUARD, 1777.

January the 6th, 1777.

A Searjant, 1 Corp', & 12 men to mount guard at General Ewings Quarters, & be continued till further orders. The Northern District to furnish 1 Sub., 1 Serg', 1 Corp', & 16 men to the Bridge guard, 1 Corp' & 3 men to the Statehouse Guard. The Southern District to mount 6 at the Statehouse, & 1 Serj', 1 Corp', & 12 men for the general's guard.

General Orders.

The Barrack Master Genl to make a Daily return of the Troops quartered in the City to the Town Major, with the place where the are quartered, who is strickly ordered to report to the Commanding Officer the States of the Rigement present. The Commanding Officers of the Rigments or Companys as they arrive to make Returns of the Arms that may be Deficient, & prepare their Men for Marching with the utmost Deligence. Each Commanding Officer of Rigments or Companys to make Daily Returns to the Brigade Major, and order an Officer to attend at head Quarters at 12 o'Clock Daily, for orders. It is General Ewings orders that the persons employed by the Barrack Master General to Quarter troops in the City or Barracks, be each provided with a copy of the above orders, which they must communicate to officers commanding every party that marches in.

January the 7th, 1777.

The Northern District to furnish 1 Sub. & 20 men to the Bridge guard, & 3 men to the Statehouse guard. The Southern District to furnish 1 Serj^t & 1 Corp^l to the Bridge guard, 12 men to the generals guard, & 1 Corp^l & 6 men to the Statehouse guard.

A Corp^l & 4 men to mount guard at Helseimer's Tavern, the upper end of Market Street. The Southern District to furnish this guard to Day.

January the 8th, 1777.

The Northern District to furnish 1 Sub., 1 Serj^t & 1 Corp^l to the Bridge Guard, 1 Serj^t, 1 Corp^l & 12 men to the General's guard, 9 men to the Statehouse guard. The Southern District to furnish 16 men to the Bridge guard, 1 Corp^l to the Statehouse guard, & 1 Corp^l & 4 men to the Forage guard at Helseimers.

January the 9th, 1777.

The Northern District to furnish 1 Sub., 1 Serj^t, 1 Corp^l & 16 men to the Bridge guard, 1 Corp^l & 9 men to the Statehouse guard. The Southern District 1 Serj^t, 1 Corp & 12 men to the Gen^ls guard.

January the 10th, 1777.

The Northern District to furnish 1 Sub. 1 Serj^t, 1 Corp^l and 16 men to the Bridge guard, & 9 men to the Statehouse. The Southern District to furnish 1 Serj^t, 1 Corp^l, & 12 men to the General's guard, & 1 Corp^l & 9 men to the Statehouse guard.

January the 11th, 1777.

The Northern District to furnish 1 Sub. to the Bridge guard, 1 Corp^l & 12 men to the Gen^ls guard, & 1 Corp^l & 9 men to the Statehouse guard. The Southern District to furnish 1 Serj^t, 1 Corp^l & 16 men to the Bridge guard, & 1 Serj^t to the General's Guard.

The General orders that all the Troops that are in this City,

Regulars as well as Militia, prepare to march Immedeately to Bristol, & all Officers who have not made Returns, & got orders for the nessessaries for their men, are directed to apply without Delay. The Barrack Master General is ordered to make Regular returns to the Town Major, who is Directed to make regular and Daily returns to the General. The Commanding Officers of each Battallion or Company are Directed to Parade the men at Head Quarters as soon as possible in order to march of their men.

January the 12th, 1777.

The Northern District to furnish 1 Sub., 1 Serjt, 1 Corpl, & 16 men to the Bridge guard, & 12 men to the general's guard. The Southern District to furnish 1 Serjt & 1 Corpl to the General's guard, & 1 Corpl & 9 men to the Statehouse.

The General Orders every Officer and Soldier, either in the Continental Troops in this State, or Militia (Coll. Fleming's Rigment excepted,) now in this Town, to Assemble in the Barrack Yard To morrow morning at 10 o'Clock, with their Arms & Accoutrements, on pain of being severely Punished for any neglect. Coll. Fleming's Regulars is to parade at the same time at the New Market on Second Street, South End of this City. The Troops are to Draw three Days Provisions To-morrow morning, which is to be Immediately Cooked.

January the 13th, 1777.

The Northern District to furnish 1 Sub. for the Bridge guard, 1 Serjt, 1 Corpl, & 12 for the general's guard, & 1 Corpl & 6 men for the Statehouse guard. The Southern District to furnish to furnish 1 Serjt, 1 Corpl, & 16 men to the Bridge guard, and 8 men to the Statehouse. The General guard having burned half a cord of wood in 3 Days, which should have lasted 7, Every Officer, Serjt, or Corporal who commands a guard, must be carfull that no Wood should be wasted or burned beyond that shall be charged to their Account.

When any Officer confines a man in the guard room, the Officer of the guard is to report the name of the prisoner, the Company he belongs to, & his crime to the Town Major when he Dismounts the guard; and when a man is once confined, no Officer or other person is to release the prisoner but by order of the Council of Safety, General, or Town Major.

The General Orders that every Officer & Soldier either in the Continental Army or Militia now in this City, to Parade to-morrow Morning at the Barracks, at 12 o'Clock, with all their Accoutrements and Baggage, with three Days' Provisons Ready Cooked that they may March Immeadiaetly.

January the 14th, 1777.

The Northern District to furnish 1 Sub., 1 Serjt, 1 Corpl, & 16 men to the Bridge guard, & 6 men to the Statehouse. The Southern

District to furnish 1 Serj^{t}, 1 Corp^{l}, & 12 men to the general's guard, & 1 Corp^{l} & 8 men to the Statehouse.

January the 15th, 1777.

The Northern District to furnish 1 Sub. to the Bridge guard, & 1 Corp'l & 9 men to the Statehouse guard. The Southern District to furnish 1 Serj^{t}, 1 Corp^{l}, & 16 men to the Bridge guard.

January the 16th, 1777.

The Northern District to furnish 1 Sub., 1 Serj^{t}, 1 Corp^{l}, & 16 men to the Bridge Guard. The Southern District, 1 Corp'l & 9 men to the Statehouse.

All the Officers & men of the City guards not on Duty to parade under the market house at two o'Clock, in order to attend the Funeral of the late General Mercer.

All the Regular Troops & Militia in the City to parade at two o'Clock this afternoon, in Walnut street, to attend the Funeral.

January the 17th, 1777.

The Northern District to furnish 1 Sub. to the bridge guard, & 1 Corp'l & 9 men to the Statehouse. The Southern District to furnish 1 Serj^{t}, 1 Corp'l, & 16 men to the Bridge.

January the 18th, 1777.

The Northern District to furnish 1 Sub., 1 Serj^{t}, 1 Corp'l, & 16 men to the Bridge guard. The Southern District to furnish 1 Corp'l & 9 men to the Statehouse.

January the 19th, 1777.

The Northern District to furnish 1 Sub., 1 Serg^{t}, 1 Corp^{l}, & 16 men to the Bridge guard, & 5 men to the Statehouse. The Southern District to furnish 4 men to the Statehouse.

January the 20th, 1777.

The Northern District to furnish 1 Sub. to the Bridge guard & 1 Corp^{l} & 9 men to the Statehouse guard. The Southern District to furnish one Serj^{t}, 1 Corp^{l}, & 16 men to the Bridge guard.

January the 21st, 1777.

The Northern District to furnish 1 Sub., 1 Serj^{t}, 1 Corp^{l}, & 16 men to the Bridge guard. The Southern District to furnish 1 Corp^{l} & 9 men to the Statehouse.

One Serj^{t}, 1 Corp^{l}, & 20 men from the Southern District, to parade at the new Market at 4 o'Clock this afternoon, in order to mount guard under the command of Leu^{t} Bensich, at the Hospital.

A General Court Martial to sit to morrow morning at 10 o'Clock, in the Commanding Officer's house in the Barracks, for the Tryal of such Deserters as are in Confinement.

COLL. ANTHONY MORRIS, Prest.

MEMBERS.

1 Capt Dickinson, of 1st Virginia Batts.
2 Capt Croghen, of 1st Virginia Batts.
3 Capt Williams, of 2d Pennsylvania Batt.
4 Capt Massy, of 6th Virginia Batt.
5 Capt Hopkins, of Dtts.
6 Capt Davis, of 9th Pennsylvania.
7 Capt Bowen, of Dtts.
8 Capt Henderson, of Dtts.
9 Capt McClellan, of Dtts.
10 Capt Henderson, of 11th Dtts.
11 Capt Coat, of Dtts.
12 Capt Douglass, of Dtts.

All Prosecutors & Witnesses to attend.

January the 22d, 1777.

The Northern District to furnish 1 Sub., 1 Serjt, 1 Corpl, & 16 men to the Bridge guard, & 1 Corpl & 9 men to the Statehouse. The Southern District to furnish 1 Serjt, 1 Corpl, & 20 men to the Infirmary guard. The Frigate guard to Consist of 1 Sub., 1 Serjt, 1 Corpl, & 9 men.

The Court Martial Ordered to sit this Day is ordered to sit tomorrow at the Hour & place before appointed.

The Commanding Officers of Corps now in this City are without Delay to order a Return of their Sick to be made to Doctor Shippen, Director General of the Military Hospitals, who will give proper Directions for their being received into the General Hospitals.

Each Corps quartered in this City is to send an orderly Serjant to the Town Major's Orderly Room, in Norris's Alley, every Morning at eleven o'Clock, to receive Orders.

January the 23d, 1777.

The Northern District to mount the Bridge guard Daily, and the Southern District the Infirmary guard Daily till further Orders. The Northern District to furnish a Corporal & 9 men to the Statehouse. The Northern District to furnish 1 Officer this Day to the Infirmary guard.

January the 24th, 1777.

One Capt, 2 Subs, 2 Serjs, 2 Corps, 2 Drumms, & 50 men from the garrison in the Barracks, to parade at the City Tavern at two o'Clock this afternoon, to escort the funerals of the late Coll. Haselett & Capt Morris. The rest of the garrison off Duty to attend with side arms only.

COLL. PENROSE,
COLL. IRWIN, } to attend as bearers.
COLL. McKEY,

The Southern District to furnish 1 Corpl & 9 men.

January the 25th, 1777.

The Northern District to furnish 1 Corp[l] & 9 men to the Statehouse guard.

January the 26th, 1777.

The Southern District to furnish 1 Corp[l] & 9 men to the Statehouse guard.

It is General Mifflin's orders that the Officers of the Different Corps quartered in Private houses in this City do no Damage to said Houses, by choping wood on the Floors, or otherwise, as such Officers will be made answerable for all Damages.

The Barrack Master general's Deputys are Daily to visit all Houses in which troops are quartered, and report to the General any Damage done thereto, & by what Corps occupied.

The Barrack Master General is to have every house ocupied by troops, that are now, or may hereafter be quarter'd in the City, cleaned as often as such troops march out.

January the 27th, 1777.

The Southern District to furnish 1 Corp[l] & 9 men to the Statehouse Guard.

A Court Martial to sit to morrow morning at 10 o'Clock in the Courthouse, for the Tryal of the man Confined by an Officer of the Third Battallion of Virginia Regulars. The Middle District to furnish a Captain and one Subaltern, the Northern District 2 Subalterns, & the Southern 1 Subaltern.

January the 28th, 1777.

The Southern District to furnish 1 Corp[l] & 9 men to the Statehouse Guard.

January the 29th, 1777.

The Southern District to furnish 1 Corp[l] & 9 men to the Statehouse guard.

The Corporals of all the Guards are to be very attentive that all the Sentries they post are perfectly Sober, & if they find any Sentries they relieve Drunk, they must confine them and acquaint the Officer commanding the guard thereof, who is to make a report to the Town Major, that the Delinquent may be punished.

January the 30th, 1777.

The Southern District to furnish 1 Corp[l] & 9 men to the Statehouse guard.

All Officers commanding guards are to obey all verbel orders from proper authority Delivered by a military Officer, but if the Officer commanding the Guard suspects that his compliance with such orders may subject him to future censure, he has a right to Demand the orders in writing, signed by the person that Delivers them, who is answerable; But if the Orders are delivered by a per-

son not a Military Officer, they must be in writing & signed by the person or Body issuing them, or some publick Officer.

January the 31st, 1777.

The Southern District to furnish 1 Corp[l] & 9 men to the Statehouse guard.

It is General Gates's orders that Collonel Melchor appoint a proper person to quarter the Troops that are to march to Germantown, and also a proper person at each of the three ferries, of which a List has been given to Coll. Melchor, each of which persons is to show the following order to the Officer commanding every Reg[t], Company or Detachment passing the ferries.

It is General Gates's orders that none of the Troops comming from Maryland or Virginia enter the City of Philadelphia, to avoid the Small pox, with which several persons are attacked, but march directly to Germantown.

February the 1st, 1777.

The Southern District to furnish 1 Corp[l] & 9 men to the Statehouse guard.

February the 2d, 1777.

The Southern District to furnish 1 Corp[l] & 9 men to the Statehouse guard.

February the 3d, 1777.

The Southern District to furnish 1 Corp[l] & 9 men to the Statehouse guard.

A Leu[t], a Serg[t], a Corp[l], a Drum[r] & Fifer, & 30 men from the Reg[t] in the Barracks, to escort the funeral Leu[t] Goodwinn, of the 2d Virginia Battallion, from the house of Vanskiver in Front Street, Northern Liberties, at 10 o'Clock to morrow morning. The adjutants in the Barracks to warn six Leuts, if to be had, if not, any six Subalterns to attend as pall bearers.

A Garrison Court Martial to sit on Wednesday morning at 10 o'Clock in the Barracks, for the Tryal of a man confined by Cap[t] Hallet of the 4th new Jersey Reg[t], for enlisting with different Officers & for theft. Cap[t] Lang & all other Witnesses to attend.

February the 4th, 1777.

The Southern District to furnish 1 Corp[l] & 9 men to the Statehouse guard.

February the 5th, 1777.

The Southern District to furnish 1 Corp[l] & 9 men to the Statehouse guard.

February the 6th, 1777.

The Southern District to furnish a Corporal & 9 men to the Statehouse guard.

A General Court Martial to sit to morrow morning at 10 o'Clock, in the Barracks. The Adjutants to warn the fowlloing Officers to it as members.

COLL. HUMPTON, Presid.

All Prosecutors and witnesses to attend.

February 7th, 1777.

The Southern District to furnish 1 Corp[l] & 9 men to the State-house guard.

February the 8th, 1777.

The Southern District to furnish 1 Corp[l] & 9 men to the State-house guard.

Mr. Comissary general Wharton to order his issuing Comissary to bring a signed return to Genl. Gates every Sunday morning at nine o'Clock, of the issues at his Stores, distinguishing the corps & rations issued to each. A Particular return from each corps to be Delivered to Major General Gates at Head quarters every Saturday morning at nine o'Clock, signed by the commanding Officer of Corps. Any commanding Officer neglecting to obey this order must expect to be put in arrest to answer for his conduct.

February the 9th, 1777.

The Southern District to furnish 1 Corp[l] & 9 men to the State-house guard.

An Adjutant in rotation from the Reg[ts] quartered in the Barracks to constantly remain therein in order to receive & Distribute such orders as the General may think necessary.

An Orderly Serj[t] from the Reg[ts] quartered in the Barracks to attend Daily on General Gates. He is to remaine in the Town Major's Orderly Room till called for.

All Orders Directed to the Commanding Officer or Adjutants in the Barraks, to be given to the Officer of the Guard, who is to find out the Senior Officer actually in the Barracks, as also the orderly Adjutant, & give them the orders respectively Directed to them.

February the 10th, 1777.

The Southern District to furnish 1 Corp[l] & 9 men to the State-house guard.

Complaint being made of the irregularity of the Guards mounting in point of time, ordered that the Searjant's major be carefull to make the guards march of the parades at 3 o'Clock, & make a report to the Town Major of every person who does not attend personally or by substitute.

A Searjant, Corporal & 12 men from the Barracks to mount Genl. Gates Guard Daily.

February 11th^th^, 1777.

The orderly Seargants are not to go home at noon till relieved or at night before eight o'clock with out permission, & must come to the orderly room every morning at 8 o'clock.

The Southern District to furnish 1 Corp^l^ & 9 men to the State-house guard.

Every officer commanding Reg^t^ Companies or Detachments of Continental Troops or Militia, to make returns immediately of the Strength of each, & an Officer from each corps now in this City or that may hereafter arrive, to attend Daily at 10 o'clock at head-quarters.

The Captains of the City guards to make returns to the Town Major of such poor men of their Cos as they judge to be proper objects to receive wood, particularly, and that served this Winter's Campaign and in their Cos.

February the 12th, 1777.

Six men to be added to the Frigate guard to furnish two Centries to Coll. Flowers continentally Stores.

The Southern District to furnish 1 Corp^l^ & 9 men to the State-house guard.

February 13th, 1777.

The Southern District to furnish 1 Corp^l^ & 9 men to the State-hous guard.

The Town Major is sorry to find there are so many and so well founded complaints against the City guards when on Duty, therefore thinks it necessary to give the following orders, which he is Determined strictly to enforce.

That the guard march off the parades at three o'clock & that the Serj^t^. or Corp^l^. of each to make a return to their Serjant Major, of every man whose turn it is to mount that does not attend, which returns are to be brought to the Town Major that the persons so neglecting their duty may be punished.

That the Officer commanding a guard does not quit his guard on any pretence whatever, except half an hour for breakfast & one hour for Dinner, During which time the Searjant must not stir from his guard.

The above rule to be observed by a Searjant commanding a guard, During whose absence the Corporal is not to quit his guard except to relieve his Sentries.

No Searjant, Corporal, or Private man, is to go more than 15 yards from his guard without leave from his Officer, which leave is not to be granted on any other account but for Breakfast or Dinner & must not exceed half an hour for the former & one hour for the latter.

Not more than one man out of five be permitted to quit the guard at one time & only for the purposes & time above specified.

No Sentry to be relieved without a corporal, every man suffering another to take his post, without being regularly relieved by his Corpl., is to be considered as deserting his post, & punished accordingly.

The Corporals must be careful not to post any Sentries but such as are perfectly sober, & must confine every Sentry who gets Drunk on his post or goes more than 10 yards from his centry Box.

All Sentries must carefully observe all orders given them without adding thereto, & must not be guilty of impropper or unnecessary act of rudeness to any one.

It having been represented to Genl. Gates, that the Soldiers frequently commit offences against the civil laws, which do not merrit the long confinement & other forms requisite for a Tryal in the Court of Law, who thinks proper to order that all military persons sent to the guard by a Civil Magistrate should be received & secured & also that a party may be given at the requisition of a Magistrate to apprehend such offenders.

The General further orders that whenever any such prisoners are confined, a Garrison Court Martial should be immediately ordered for their Tryal which Court Martial must consist of a Field Officer, two Captains, & 4 Subalterns.

The above orders sent to Coll. Pennrose.

February the 14th, 1777.

Three men to be added to the Frigate guard which must send 2 Sentries every afternoon to the Lottery Office & relieve them regularly till nine o'clock in the morning when they must both be taken off.

Thos. Savadge to Council, 1777.

Pennsylvania Salt works, Feb. 15, 1777.

Gentn,

This morning about 2 o'clock an express arrived here from Col. Furmen, with acct that on Thursday last a party supposed to be Col. Morris & some Regulars atact our people at the heigh lands near the Hook, killed several and took between fifty & sixty prisoners. Colnl Furman has ordered the Militia here to march from this to Freehold they set off to morrow morning. I expect as soon as the wind is favourable this same party will come here, it being I apprehend the same party I informed you of the 10th Inst, being informed they have two Tenders and about six hundred men, it will be necessary to be expeditious in sending something to support these works into

the inlet as well as by land or the works are gone in few days, excuse haste whilst I remain,

Gen^tn your most Hble Servt,
THOS. SAVADGE.*

Directed,
To the Hon. the Council of Safety of the State of Pennsylvania.
℔ Fa^vr M^r. W^m. Britton.

GEN'L ARMSTRONG TO COUNCIL, 1777.

Carlisle 17th February, 1777.

Sir:

Before this time the recommendation of Congress to the Council where you preside respecting the necessity of putting an immediate stop to the farther distilling of wheat or other grains within this State for the present season may have come to your hands, but if not, permit me to discharge the duty of an individual by informing you, late as it now is; (what I would most readily have done sooner had not my attendance on Congress prevented) that from the intolerable excess of this practice, consequences the most alarming are to be expected, not only to this State but to the publick—As from the best information I can get the Rye both in this & the county of York is almost all distilled, as is also considerable quantities of Wheat & larger still of the latter bought up for the same purpose, nor can we doubt but that Lancaster & other counties are going on in the same destructive way, so that in a few months Pennsylvania may be scarce of bread even for her own inhabitants.—Where then shall our publick magazines be made up or forrage procured? Liquor is already Ten shillings ℔ gallon, wheat will immediately be the same ℔ Bushel, and if the complicated Demon of avarice & infatuation is not suddenly chained, or cast out, he will raise them each to twenty! Whether this salutary work wou'd more properly come from the Assembly, or whether that body consistent with other business cou'd give this the necessary despatch you will judge. One thing is obvious the matter complained of is in present circumstances pregnant with many evils and if not speedily remedied must be fatal. May the divine blessing superintend your councils, which is Sir the cordial wish

of your most respectful
humble Servt,
JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Directed,
On the public Service, The Honourable Thomas Wharton, President of the Council of Safety, Philadelphia.
℔ Favoured by M^r. Penel.

* See Colon. Rec. vol. xi, p. 126.

Lodick Spogrell &c., to Council, 1777.

Philad, February 18th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

The Pennsylvania Reigm^t is in so confused and Unsettled a situation—the Men under no command, stroling about the Town and Country, and some inlisting in other Corps—there is a necessity something should be done with them immediately. If your Honours have not determined how you will dispose of them, I would make bold to mention. I apprehend it would be of Publick Service to send them to Billinsport, where they may be employed and kept together, and an Advertizm^t Published to call them in that have, and many that have not furlows, that a true state of the Regiment may be taken, without which it will be impossible to make a Gen' Muster and Settlem^t with them. I hope your Honours will excuse the liberty I take in mentioning a matter of this sort to you, and be assured it proceeds from no other motive than a desire of serving my country. I am,

Y Honors

Mo obed^t h^e serv^t,

LOD'K SPROGELL.

Com^y G, of Musters for Pennsy^l.

Directed,

To The Honorable, the Councill of Safety, for Pennsylvania.

Gen'l Putnam to Councils, &c., 1777.

Princeton, Feb 18th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

Last night Col. Neilson, with a party of about 150 men, attacked sixty belonging to Cortland Skinner's Brigade, at Lawrence's Island, under command of Maj^r Richd Stockton, formerly an Inhabitant of this place—the Enemys renowned land Pilot—the Colonel took the whole, among which ware this Stockton, a Captain & three or four Subaltern officers; the enemy had four killed, and one wounded —we had one killed—this you may depend upon to be a fact. Col. Neilson is just arrived here. I shall forward the prisoners on in a day or two to you—50 of the Bedford County Rifle men of your State, what I detached from this place, were with Col. Neilson—the whole officers & men, both belonging to that County & the Militia of this State, behaved with great bravery, such as would do honour

to veteran Soldiers; there are also thirty or sixty stand of arms, which I think the Middlesex Militia ought to have. The Bearer I send purposely to acquaint you with the Circumstance.

I am Gentlemen, with Esteem,

your Hum serv^t,

ISRAEL PUTNAM.

Since writing the above the whole of the prisoners have arrived here.

Directed,

The Honble the Council of Safety, Philad^a. ✠ Express.

DAN'L BANCROFT TO COUNCIL, &c., 1777.

Gentlemen,

After sixty days imprisonment, I conceive it to be a very great hardship to be removed to another State, probably to remain a long time in Confinement before I shall be able to obtain an hearing. especially, as I have no more connection with the State of New Jersey than with that of Pennsylvania. The circumstance of having been taking there, I should suppose trifling, as my being there was owing to the conveniency of my wife being with a relation, while I was expected to have been absent on my intended Voyage to France.

In the circumstance I am now in I know not whether I am to expect any thing I can alledge to be received *as truth*. I did, by the advice of some Gentlemen of your honorable board, represent my situation & all its circumstances fairly and with candour. I should imagine the length of my confinement sufficient to have afforded an opportunity, for any person that would do it, to exhibit a charge against me—if it be done, I request an opportunity of justifying myself. If it be not done, I request an act of justice from that board in whose power I now am, and whom I should suppose the proper persons to determine my fate. It cannot be supposed but any person must suffer much in his property, and much (if he have any feeling) in his connexions. But I also suffer much in my health, and do therefore request that I may no longer be confined without being sensible of a cause that will convince me it is not undeserved. I have reason to believe there are some surmises of prejudiced persons that have opperated against me, otherwise I cannot believe I should have so long remained in this place. I request no more than every person has a right to expect, & do hope it may not be delayed, nor referred to another State that will neces-

sarily require many (to me) tedious days before my situation can be examined into. I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

your most obedient,

hble servt,

DAN'L BANCROFT.

State Prison, Feby 18th, 1777.

Directed,

The Honorble Council Safety.

General Putnam to Major Boggs, 1777.

Sir,

You are ordered with the detachment under your Command to take Charge of one Richard Stockton, Late reputed Major in the English Service, and the party taken with him Consisting of one Capt., one Lieut., one Ensign, one Volunteer, and fivety five privates, Including Sargts. and Corprls., Conduct them safe to Philada., and Deliver them to the Council of Safety, You will observe that uncommon Vigilance is Necessary to secure persons whose acquaintance with the Country and whose desperate Situation, gives them every advantage, and every Incitement to escape from an Injured and Exaspirated Community into whose hands they have fallen.

Those in Irons are to remain so while under your Care. Let no Indulgence be allowed them which affords a possibility of Escape, they are to have no Communication with any Stranger whatever; double your Centinels within and without doors and take every other precaution which your Discretion would point out to secure Villains Resolved on flight.

You will not take too much room for their Quarters, but Stow them as thick as possible. Remembering you stand accountable for every Misconduct.

By order of the General.

D. PUTNAM, Aid de Camp.

Head Quarters, Princeton, 19th Feb. 1777.

Directed.

Major Boggs. *

* Autograph cut off.

Instructions to Commodore Seymour, 1777.

In Council, 19 Feb'y, 1777.

Sir,

You are hereby directed to Order all the Galleys & armed boats (except the Delaware & those that are in the Carpenters hands for repairs) down to Fort Island immediately with their Officers and Crews to remain on that Station till further Orders from this board, or with your particular permission, it is left at the option of the Commanding Officer of each armed boat respectively to continue themselves & their Crew on board their boat or to take quarters in the barracks on said Island. You must give particular Orders to the Commanding Officer on that Station to have proper Guards appointed on the Island for the security of the fortifications, and that no person be permitted to visit them, or take any draught of the same or make any sounding of the River, or draught of the Channel or situation of the Chevaux du frize with out a written order from some member of this Council.

Directed,

To Commodore Seymour.

General Dickinson to Council of Safety, 1777.

Head Quarters, Raritan, Feb. 19th, 1777.

Dr. Sir,

I send you by Captain Morrisson, of your City, 2 prisoners, who were taken from the Enemy a few days since.

I am, Dear Sir,

Your most obedt. hum. Servant,

By order of Genl. Dickinson,

FREDERICK FRELINGHUYSEN, B. Major.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, Esqr., Presidt. Commte. of Safety, Philadelphia.

Col. T. Proctor to Council, &c., 1777.

Morris Town, February 20th, 1777.

Much esteemed Sir,

I had the Pleasure of receiving yours dated in Council the 6th Inst., with the inclosed Resolve for the Establishment of a Regiment of Artillery for the State of Pennsylvania, appointing me to the Command. The high Honour you have thus conferr'd upon me I trust shall ever have its due Effect, influenced only by the sincerest Principles of Regard for the Honour and future advancement of my Country, ever to be sensible of the Importance of the Trust you have repos'd in me, and thro' you Sir, return the Honourable Council my most sincere acknowledgements.

The Happiness and necessary Discipline of the Regiment shall be my next Care, supporting that Union among the Corps of Officers so essential to its advancement, and as from the Junior State of the Regiment many Gentlemen must receive Preferment, will on my Part assure you, to recommend none but such as I conceive to be Men of Bravery, Science & Industry, and as the Continental Artillery under the Command of General Henry Knox are set upon so respectable a Footing as their Importance in the Field deserve, doubt not but the same Motives will influence the Honourable Board to establish their first Regiment of Artillery in like manner, a Copy of which arrangement shall transmit for your approbation as soon as it can be furnished on the General's arrival, in the interim, pursuing such necessary measures in raising the Companies as shall be expedient to supply our necessities, so that it will be advisable to appoint the Captains of the several Companies, and send them to different Parts to raise their Men, for as much as you are pleas'd to admit of my Recommendation in the Promotion of my present officers, can do no less in Justice to their Readiness to fulfil every Command and Chearfulness in the Discharge of their Duty, than to refer them to your Gift of Preferment according to the Seniority of their appointments, Lieutenant Ames excepted, untill he clears up his Character in the Action at Trenton, as he is charged by Captain Forrest and Lieutenant Duffey for neglect of Duty.

The inclosed is a List of the names of such Gentlemen as I have selected from personal Knowledge of their Behaviour, recommending them for your appointment to the Artillery, in such manner as their present Rank may require, at the same Time would not wish to prevent such Gentlemen as the Members of Council should think worthy to prefer to such offices, as in their opinion they are worthy to fill. General Knox is daily expected, at which Time, have no doubt but I can conveniently be spar'd a few days to go to Philadelphia to settle such matters as the Regiment may require, and easier to be practic'd than by letter. If it is possible to procure

light arms for the Artillery, and other accoutrements, as Belts & Pouches, I shall be happy, as I have found it difficult heretofore to provide these Matters before they were wanted, also the Cloathing of the Men. My Contract with Mease & Caldwell was for a hundred and odd Suits; I am not certain if fulfilled. The Men I have here are in the greatest want of Cloathing of every Kind, and my Quarter Master has been refus'd to be furnish'd, being, we are Provincial Troops, and unless I have such Matters shortly, our sufferings will be great, namely Shirts, Shoes and Stockings, and a few pair of Leather Breeches.

I am, Sir,

Your devoted humble Servant,

THOS. PROCTOR.

P. S.—I have considered my Brother's Situation, on acco^t of his Family, with respect to his joining the Continental Artillery, as I believe he would not have accepted of any office there had he not thought I should have been permitted to join with General Knox, if you think him worthy of a Company shall acknowledge the Indulgence.

On publick Service.

Directed.

Thomas Wharton, Esqr., President of the Council of Safety, Philadelphia.

Favor'd by Lieut. T. Proctor.

ORDERS, 1777.

Head Q^rs Morris Town, Feby 20th, 1777.

To Captain Robert Mullen.

Sir,

You will take charge of the prisoners now in the Provost Guard, a list of which is enclosed, and them safely conduct to Philadelphia, where you will wait on the Honble The Committee of Safety and receive their further Instructions respecting them, its His excellencies wish they may be treated with humanity, and not suffered to want for Provisions or any other necessary you can procure for them, and they stand in need of.

I am Y^r Hble Servt.

G. WERDON Adjt Gen.

Directed,

To Capt. Robert Mullin, at Morris Town.

Col. T. Proctor to Council, 1777.

Morris Town February 21st, 1777

Dear Sir.

Through a great deal of business which rests upon me to perform, could not very conveniently answer your Letter, moreover, I have been in constant Expectation that some matter would have turn'd up the Event of which hoped would have been worth relating to you, but our Situation is much like when you left us, but from late movements of the Enemy, 'tis more than probable they intend to try Titles with us, as they have been reinforced by Troops from Rhode Island to a considerable number, and this Hour had his Excellency's Request to have every matter in Readiness about the Cannon, and Ammunition fitting a March.

By a gentleman who left New York on Monday last, of the name of Crane, assures he seen Seventy two men of the Jersey Militia, who by Stratagem were surrounded and taken Prisoners at the Light House and carried to New York. The day before yesterday a Party of our Men took Twenty Waggons loaded with Forage, drove in their Picquet Guard, and sustained no Loss.

A Soldier kill'd two Light Horse Men of the Enemy & narrowly escap'd other Pursuers by crossing a water in a great heat, which has put him in Fitts ever since, but the Horses & Accoutrements were brought in; the same day a Lieutenant of their Artillery was taken and brought to General Sullivan's Quarters with seven other Prisoners, most of which are Highlanders, not one day passes but they are visited by one Party or other of our People. This morning Twelve men of a Company have been detached to the amount of Twelve hundred to bring off Forage from the Enemies Lines, I hope they will prosper.

This day a Brigade of the New England Troops arrived from the White Plains. I believe very little is doing by General Heath, since he summon'd Fort Independance to surrender, and it refused to comply with his demand.

I this day received a Letter from Mr Matthew McGuire, requesting my Interest towards his getting the Office of Paymaster to the Artillery, the Gentleman I am well acquainted with & his good character and Abilities, from which could not have the least Objection, if it meets the Councils Approbation, which you will please to signify to them. Sir, there is a young Gentleman of your name, whom I wish to prefer to a Second Lieutenancy, he is Son to Major Morris of this Town, who is one of the best Partizans on the Line, as no one disturbs the Enemies Out Posts more than he does, 'tis almost his daily Employment and very successful, I will be down in a few days and shall direct him to wait on you to be introduced to the Council to have their apppobation of my choice.

General St. Clair will recommend him as he was in Canada with him last Campaign, expect to hear from you when any extraordinary matter presents, in the interim.

I am with great Regard

Sir

Your most humble Servant.

THOS. PROCTER.

P. S. just as I close the Letter an acco't arrives of Richard Stogden (a noted Tory) being taken with 60 men—1 Major taken at Lawrence's Highlands, 1 Capt. 1 Lieut. 2 Serj^ts & 4 Corporal's believe this to be true.

Directed,

To Samuel C. Morris, Esq., Member of the Honble Council of Safety, Philadelphia.—Favor'd by Lt. F. Proctor.

Joseph Hart, &c., to Council, 1777.

Bucks County, 22d Feb, 1777.

To the Honorable the Council of Safety of the Commonwealth of Pensylvania,

Sir,

Agreable to the orders of the Council dated the nineteenth Instant we the Subscribers, repaired to the House of Isaac Hicks at Newtown received from Mrs. Hicks all the papers she alleged to be in their house, and deposited the same in the public Office, and having examined the Records there, which we found to consist of the following Books Viz: The Records of Deeds from Book A to Book F. 8 Vols. each except the third Vol. of Book A. Orphans Court Books from A. to G. one Vol. each except vol. E. Will books from A. to C. one vol. each. Administration Book, Vol. 1., all which are extended to the year 1776 from which we apprehend that all the public Records Belonging to s^d Office are there except those two volumes now in your posession, we have likewise Order'd the magazine to be removed which will be done to morrow.

We are Sir with the utmost Respect

Your very Humble Servants

JOSEPH HART.
RICH. GIBBS.
HENRY WYNKOOP.*

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 128.

State of the Chevaux de Frizes, 1777.

February 22d, 1777.

Remarks made by Joseph Rhoads with Respect to the State of the Chevaux de Friezes at Billinsport.

That there are Eight Frames finish'd & plank'd; Eight more to finish, part not rais'd.

He thinks there is as much Plank as will finish two of the Latter, & consequently Plank for 6 Wanted.

There are 42 Loggs at the Water side; and a Certain Woulfe, who lives at the place, informs that there are Several Loggs along shore.

There are 36 Small Loggs on the ground, which will make floor Timbers, as also Some Scantling and Boards.

He thinks there are Bolts, Straps, & pins Enough to finish the above Frames.

There is One Barrell of Spikes; not sufficient to finish the Frames begun.

The Spear Irons are all on.

Joseph Rhoads' Return, Febr 24, 1777.

Gov. Livingston, N. J., to Council of Safety, 1777.

Haddonfield, 22d Feby., 1777.

Sir,

On the late Irruption of the Enemy into this State, many of our public Bridges & some Boats belonging to Individuals were destroyed by Parties of your Militia. This Measure was adopted to retard the Enemy's March to Philadelphia, which, it was generally supposed, they intended to attack. The Measure itself, being designed for the common Good, is not, I believe, disapproved of by any. But the manner of carrying it into Execution, as to the unnecessary Destruction made, is blamed by many; & the Authority by which the Officers acted, not being known, has caused others to think it necessary to make an Inquiry.

Some Persons professing to act under Authority from your Council of Safety, are said to have executed the trust reposed in them, (if they were so intrusted) with great Imprudence; & to have destroyed both public & private Property with great Wantonness. Capt. Charles Lawrence, Commander of a Guard Boat, Sunk a Boat belonging to Major Westcoat loaded with Coal, at Cooper's Creek Bridge. The Bridge itself was demolished; & has been repaired by Orders from General Putnam save only as to the hand-rails—The Officer of the Company of Carpenters sent to repair it, declared that the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania would repay the

Expence of the reparation—They have paid some persons employed for that purpose; Others they have refused to pay, & directed to apply to the Committee of New Jersey, declaring that they will pay no more. It is said that this Bridge was destroyed by the above named Capt Lawrence, who produced Orders for it, Signed by General Putnam, the purport of which was, that he should repair to it, & *protect it*.

It is said that Colo Matlack destroyed the Ankocus & Pennsaukeng Bridges; and that a party under his Command destroyed a Flat at Ankocus Ferry; & that a Wood-Boat belonging to Mr. Hugh Hollingshead was destroyed at the upper Ferry on Ankocus.

To quiet the Minds of our People, many of whom are dissatisfied at Some of the Proceedings upon that Occasion, & to preserve the greatest possible Harmony between our Sister-States, our Council think it necessary that the Matter should be enquired into; & have desired me to apply to your honourable Council of Safety for that purpose

I must for a few days defer answering your Letter of the 17th Instant, inclosing a List of Tories confined in your State Prison, because we daily expect a Member of Our Council from Monmouth, who, I am informed, is acquainted with the Characters & offences of most of the Prisoners, & whose assistance we shall want when they are brought before us.—With great respect to Your honourable Council,

I have the Honour to be, Sir,

Your most humble Sert,

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Directed,

To Owen Biddle, Esqr, Chairman of the honourable, the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania, In Philadelphia.

Peter Knight to Council, 1777.

Philada, Febr'y 24th 1777.

Sir,

I am Informd by a Neighbour of mine, That a Certain Robert Hodge, Said to belong to York Government, near Pickskilns, Came to Jacob Agee, Papermaker, & bespoke 1180lb paper of a partecular Sort; who Refused to make it, unless he brot a Certificate from ye Congress; one was Brot, & the paper was made & delea; at the Time of the Delivery of the Paper, there was in Comp'y with Said Hodge, one Green, an Ingraver; & the famous or Infamous, Ritchardson, formerly Concernd in Money Making. Sum Inquiry into this Matter May be Necessary, which youl be the Best Judge off.

I am yours Respectfully,

PETER KNIGHT.

The Honble Thos Wharton, Esqr, Present.

Mr. Nesbitt to Council, 1776.

Mr. Nesbitt informed the Council that a certain Adam Allen offered him a sum of money in New Jersey Currency, dated 20 February, 1776, signd by Jn° Hart and Saml How, which was sent from New York by Robert Couper to discharge some Debts due from him to persons in this City, which money appears to be a part of a Sum stolen from Saml. Tucker, Esqr, in Trenton by the Enemy —and ought to be signd by Mr Tucker, vizt :—

59 Three pound Bills.
60 Thirty Shilling Bills.
120 Fifteen shilling Bills.

Sixty thirty shilling Bills of the New Jersey Provincial Congress, dated the 20th day of Feb^y, 1776, signd by two Signers only, viz., John Hart & Samuel How, takên from Adam Allen, who says they were sent to him from New York by Robert Coupar, to discharge some debts due by him in this City. Fifty-nine of three pound bills of the same emission & date, & signd in the same manner. One hundred and twenty fifteen shilling Bills, d°, d°, the same.

In Congress, Feb'y 24th, 1777.

Resolved,

That the Governor of New Jersey be requested to order the Militia of that State properly armed & equipped immediately to join the General; and that the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania be also requested to send to the aid of the General such of their Militia properly armed and equipped, as are contiguous to New Jersey—it being the earnest Desire of Congress to make the army under the immediate Command of Genl. Washington sufficiently strong, not only to curb and confine the Enemy within their present quarters, & prevent them from drawing Support of any kind from the Country, but by the divine Blessing to subdue them before they can be reinforced.

By order of Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, Presid^t.

Petition of John Underwood to Council, 1777.

To the Honourable the Council of Safety of the State of Pennsylvania.

The Petition of John Underwood Humbly Sheweth,

That Your Petitioner hath Served as a First Lieutenant in a Company of Militia, last Summer's Campaign, And is willing to Enter into the Service of the United States During the Present Unnatural War; Requests that Your Honourable Board would be Pleased to Grant him a first Lieutenancy in Some of the Companies to be raised in this State. And Your Petitioner as in duty bound shall Pray.

JOHN UNDERWOOD.

Feb'y 24th, 1777.

We, whose Names are hereunto Subscribed, do recommend ye above Petitioner as a Person of Good Caracter, and deserving of the Appointment he solicits.

JOSIAH CRAWFORD.
ALEX^d LOWREY.

Colonel Weedon to Council, 1777.

Head Quarters, Morris Town, Feby 24th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

I send you by His excellencies command, Col^o. Duyckings, of infamous Character. He was in the Service of the States, but on the Enemies comeing into the Jersies he swore Allegiance to the King, took their protection, and went into Brunswick. He it is thought has been instrumental to many pieces of Intelligence gained by them,—Notwithstanding his enimical conduct has had the boldness to come amongst us since the publication of his excellencies Proclamation tho' refuses to avail himself of the Benefits resulting therefrom. From the whole of his Conduct it appears his Business out, was more to gain a Knowledge of our strength & situation than any other motive, circumstances at present render it impossible to fix the matter upon him as a spy, His excellency desires he may be taken proper care of in your Goal till a future day. You will also receive a Captain Hayden of Col^o. Burskirks Bat. of Skinners Brigade, made prisoner by our army, His excellency allowed him his parole which he broak; a proper attention to him in your further Directions may also be found Necessary, By the same escort I send

you Lieutenant Camron of the 71st Regiment of British Troops, with a Copy of his parole.

I have the Honor to be, Gentlemen,

Yr. most ob't Serv't, &c.,

G. WEEDON, Adj. Genl.

Directed.

To the Honble the Committee of Safety, Philadelphia.

Wm. Richards to Council of Safety, 1777.

Gent^n,

Benjamin Books who has the Care of the alarm Boat at Bombay Hook is to be turned out of his house in a few days, he wants to build a Log House for his Men. The favor I have to ask of you, Gentlemen, is to write a Line to the Committee of said Place to obtain that Liberty for Mr. Books so that he may not be hinder'd, for if he should, the Men will be Distress'd for a House.

remain your most obed't

humble Serv't,

WM. RICHARDS.

Phila., Feby. 24th, 1777.

Directed,

Hon'ble Council of Safety, pres'nt.

Doct. John Connolly to Council, 1777.

Ship, 25th Feb'y, 1777.

Sir,

Immediately upon the order of the Council of Safety being communicated to me, I should have set out without loss of time for Philada., but my continual indisposition & the lameness of one of my Horses, together with the extreme bad Weather, rendered it impossible for me to manifest a readier obedience, than by setting out upon the 23d. Fully acquainted with the violent prejudices which prevail against me; as well as sensible of many malicious, & groundless reports equally disadvantageous, I have thought proper to dispatch my servant before me, in order to acquaint you, that I am so far advanced upon my journey; apprehensive that a day or two longer delay might give rise to some unfavorable impressions,

tho' more expedition in my present state of health I am really incapable to make.

Whatever may have occasioned an alteration in Opinion with regard to me, I can truly assert, it could not possibly have originated from any thing either transacted or expressed by me. Conscious of nothing which can merit resentment from you, I shall submit to whatever may be determined upon in my Case, with all the patience which my enfeebled constitution will afford.

I have the honor to be
respectfully,
your most Obed^t Servt,
JOHN CONNOLLY.*

Directed,
To Thomas Wharton, Esqr., President of the Council of Safety.

Gov. Livingston to Council, 1777.

Haddonfield, 25 Feb'ry, 1777.

Sir,

A young Gentleman has applied to me for leave to enlist a considerable number of the Prisoners belonging to this State now in your Jail, who, he says, are willing to enter into the Service. But as I know not the guilty from the innocent, & the suffering the former to inlist would be really discharging them without a Tryal, & the inlisting the Latter, while in Confinement, be taking an unjust Advantage of a Prisoner, I did not think myself authorized to countenance such a Procedure. As those people were hurried to your City by the Military, at a time when the situation of this State was such that they could not be safely confined in it, I do not know for what particular offences they were apprehended, nor can I upon the most diligent Inquiry procure the proper Information. Probably an Account of their Crimes was transmitted to your Council with their Persons. If so, I should esteem it a particular Favour to be furnished with it. We are as sollicitous to relieve you from the Burden of keeping them as you can be, but we know not what to do with them at present if we should send for them hither, for want of Evidence to discriminate the guilty from the Innocent.

I am sir,
your most humble serv^t,
WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Directed,
To Owen Biddle, Esqr, Chairman of the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania, In Philadelphia.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., 196, 200.

Congress to Council of Safety, 1777.

Baltimore, Feby 25th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

The Congress, having just received Intelligence from Genl Washington that the Enemy at Brunswick are considerably reinforced by the arrival of the Troops from Rhode Island, under the command of Gen. Clinton, immediately came to a Resolution which I am directed to signify to you, and agreeably to the Terms of it, to request that you will send to the Aid of the General such of your Militia properly armed and equipped, as are contiguous to New Jersey; it being the earnest Desire of Congress to make the Army under his immediate Command, sufficiently strong, not only to confine the Enemy within their present Quarters, and prevent them from drawing Support of any Kind from the Country, but by the Blessing of God, totally to subdue them before they can be further reinforced.

I have the Honour to be,

Gentlemen,

your most obed^t,

& very h'ble serv^t,

JOHN HANCOCK, Presid^t.

Directed,

Hon'ble Council of Safety of Pennsylvania.

Gen'l Dickinson to Council &c., 1777.

Head Quarters, Raritan, Feb. 26th, 1777.

D. Sir,

I send to you, under Guard, 4 Hessian Prisoners, taken at this port, and a regular Deserter, who lately came out from the Enemy.

I am sir, your's, &c.,

By order of Genl Dickinson.

FRED'K FRELINGHUYSEN, B. Major.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President Council of Safety, Philadelphia. ✠ Lieu^t Taylor.

JOHN WALTER TO COUNCIL, 1777.

Sr,

According to ye Order signified to me by yours of the 24th Instant, I have made an Essay of Sulpher Oar, sent at ye same time, and find it to be poor in Quality, and so rigidly bound up in the Iron it is combin'd with as to make it very expensive in the working, besides ye person that brot it informs me it is enveloped in a solid Rock which will make the Digging it expensive; it may not be amiss to inform the Hon. Councill that I have made essays on Oars brot from all parts within five Hundred Miles, and find none so rich as what is found about Bordentown in ye Jerseys, which, besides has the advantage of lying open to the Day, and being in prodigious Quantitys.

I am Sr,

your most humble servt,

JOHN WALTERS.*

Spring Gardens, 27th Feb, 1777.

Directed,

To Thos. Wharton, Esqr.

DR. JOHN CONNOLLY TO COUNCIL, 1777.

Febr 27th, 1777.

Sir,

Yesterday evening I arrived in this City, & did myself the honor of waiting upon the Council of Safety; but upon enquiring found they had adjourned. I had it in design to have repeated my attendance this Morning, but am absolutely incapable of leaving my room. I lodge at Mrs Papley's, and shall be ready to comply with such directions as you may think necessary to prescribe, flattering myself however, that nothing definitive, with regard to me, will be determined upon until I am in some degree better.

I have the honor to be respectfully

Sir,

Your most obedt Servt,

JNO. CONNOLLY.†

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, Esqur, President of the Council of Safety.

* See Vol. IV., p. 719, 720, 752.

† See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. 196, 200. Also 101, 180, 242, this Vol.

JOHN EVANS TO COUNCIL, 1777.

Chester County, Feb^r 27th, 1777.

Sir:

I received your favour of 25th Instant, and it must give real pleasure to every friend of Liberty & Virtue, to behold the dawn of a & free Independant Government, rising out of the ashes of one that was likely to sap from us all that was worthy a freemans enjoyment. Pleased with the happy appearance (which thro' the goodness of Providence) our noble and generous struggle for Liberty now wears, yet when I reflect upon the important trust, that will come within the department of the Executive Counsel, which has heretofore been so worthily & judiciously conducted by the Council of Safety, it gives me great uneasinesss to find my-self one of the number on whom such a trust is to Devolve, and my great diffidence of not being equal to the task, would have rendered me extremely unhappy, but for the aid and assistance which the Council of Safety has so kindly offered, which to me as a member of the Executive Council will be always very acceptable, and earnestly sought after.

Agreeable to the order of the Council I purpose to set out for Philad^a, on Fryday, and expect to be in town on Saturday or Sunday next at farthest.

I am with great respect your

Hble Servt

JOHN EVANS.

Directed,

Thomas Wharton, jun^r, President.

DANIEL BANCROFT TO COUNCIL, 1777.

Sir,

About ten days ago I applied to the Council of Safety, & from the Presidents answer did expect soon to have been enlarged. I am fully persuaded of being able to convince the Council that my conduct has been misrepresented to my disadvantage, were I informed of what I am accused—I should suppose that ten weeks will be thought a sufficient length of time for a person to be confined merely upon suspicion of guilt—I only wish my actions may be judged with candor & impartiality—If any crime be proved against me I shall patiently

suffer—if not, I beg I may not be longer kept here at the expence of property and health.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

your most Hble Servt

DANL BANCROFT.

State Prison 27th Febr, 1777.

Directed.

President of the Council Safety.

Gen. Putnam to Gen. Gates, 1777.

Princeton, Febr 27th, 1777.

Sir,

By the bearer Col. Watts have sent you some prisoners, (tories & enlisted men,) a list of which is inclosed—one of them was taken with Stockton, but being sick, could not be sent with that party—some of them I make no doubt but will be willing to enlist into the Contl Service, if so, I think it would be well enough to enlist them, those who will not, I would have them put immediately on Board the frigates—the Hessian is a Deserter—the following is an Extract of a letter from Head Quarters, 24th Febr: "There happened a fray "yesterday between part of Genl Maxwell's Brigs, & about 2000 of "the Enemy, in which our people took 7 prisoners & kept the "ground. We had 1 man killed & 3 or 4 wounded. The Enemy's "loss was supposed to have been much more considerable. They "were seen to carry off several Waggon loads of dead & wounded. "We expect to hear more of it to-day."

I am, Sir,

Your Humbl Servt,

ISRAEL PUTNAM.

N. B.—Be good enough to send me the news Papers, we scarce see one in an age, and then by accident. I. P.

Directed,

The Hon'ble Major General Gates, Philadelphia. Col. Watts.

Wm. Atlee to Council, 1777.

Lancaster, the 28th February, 1777.

Gentlemen,

Joseph Richardson, the Person who was some time ago charged with counterfeiting the Bill of Credit of Pennsylvania, & for the apprehending of whom a large reward was offered by the late Governor, was yesterday Evening brought to this Place by General Thompson, Major Butler, & some other officers, who met with him on their way between York & the Susquehanna, on their arrival here they delivered him to the Committee, who have ordered him to Goal, and directed me to inform the Council of Safety of the matter, & request their instructions how he is to be disposed of.

I take this opportunity to mention that Capt. Abraham Scott, of Col. Galbraith's Battalion of Associators in this County, lately brought in & delivered to me 24 Muskets, 1 Rifle, 21 Bayonets, 19 Belts, 36 Cartridge Boxes, 1 Powder Horn & Pouch, & 2 wooden Canteens, which he says he received at Philada., from Mr. Towers. Mr. Scott mistook the Directions of the Council, which appoints the Arms of the several Battalions to be sent to Philada. by the Colonels, but as he had brought them several miles in a Waggon, & that method of Carriage without Boxes is frequently injurious to arms, I received them from him, & shall send them down, or put them into the Hands of the Continental Troops here as the Council shall please to order, tho' I must not omit to mention that I deliver'd 6 of the Muskets with 6 Bayonets & Belts, & the same Number of Cartridge Boxes, to Captains Lang & Wertz, the other day, (as they had a number of Deserters to escort to Philada.,) & took their Receipt for them to be delivered to the Council at Philadelphia. Colonel Hartly has requested the others of me for the use of his Battalion, & likewise requested that the arms collected by the Colonels here might be put into the Hands of his People, but as to these matters I cou'd give him no answer. A few of those here want a little repairing & if the Council think proper I'l have it done.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obed't Serv't,

WILLI= ATLEE.

Richardson has a Horse here, & requests the liberty of selling him, or sending him to some Friend in the Country where he may be kept at less expense than here.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, junior, Esquire, President of Honourable Council of Safety of Pennsylvania.

Mittimus for Joseph Richardson, 1777.

Sir,

Major Butler & Capt. Boyd having brought to Town & Delivered into your care a Certain Joseph Richardson,* being the Person Advertised by John Penn, Esqr., late Governor of Pennsylvania, & charged with counterfeiting the Paper Currency of Pennsylvania, I am ordered by the Committee to require and Command you to keep the s^d Joseph Richardson safely confined in the Goal of the County of Lancaster, until he shall be from thence discharged by order from the Committee or other proper authority.

WILLI^m ATLEE,
Chairman of Committee.

Lancaster, the 28th Feb^y, 1777.

Michael Immel, keeper of the Common Goal, Lancaster County.

A true Copy ꝑ me. MICHAEL IMMEL.

The above being a Copy of the mitimus of Joseph Richardson certified by the Gaol keeper—the said Joseph Richardson hath requested to have it certified whether he is committed by order of the Committee for any other Cause or offence than what is therein contained—I do therefore certify that the above contains the reasons for the commitment of the said Joseph Richardson by the Committee, and the only reasons; there being no proof before the Committee in support of the assertions of his being a Tory or inimical to the Liberties & Rights of America.

WILLI^m ATLEE,
Chairman of Committee.

Lancaster, the 15th March, 1777.

Col. Proctor to Owen Biddle, 1777.

Head Quarters, Princetown, Mar. 1st, 1777.

Dear Sir,

Last evening I arrived here, having taken a Circuit through our front lines in order to examine the Artillery, if they were in fitness for action, a report of which am to make to His Excellency on my return to Morris. I found every matter in good order, and at some of the post had form'd small breast works for defence, particularly at Middle brook and Raritan bridge. The men are in Exceeding high spirits. You perhaps have heard of the skirmish we had on Sunday last not far from Quible or Samptown, I saw Genl Maxwell's letter, which mention they had kill'd, fifty men wounded 100. Our

* See Vol. IV. p. 466, and Col. Rec. Vol. X. p. 99.

loss not more than one kill'd, three wounded, and by the account of three deserters of 49th regt I heard & examined one Marine, who left Brunswick Thirsday, 11 o'clock in the day, being sent out to cut wood, nearly proves the same as the Genls letter, as they were of the picket when twelve waggons loaded with slain were buried. They also mention that Morris is their mark for Vengence, purposing to make it a Visit when the ground is a little clear'd of snow, which at present is prity deep, they also mention great uneasiness among the soldiery for want of pay, scarcity of every kind of Provisions but salt, and that 138 horses have lately been carried into an adjacent field near Brunswick, who died eating so little of our salt marsh hay.

Genl Warner informed me of his intending last Thirsday night to have surprised the Hessian Picket, but he was early discovered by their out sentinals, from whome he rec'd sundry shotts without returning hoping to have surrounded their whole guard, brought of Two Hessians, three Horses, and sundry Cattle without loss on our side.

Sr Mr. Jos. Rice, Lt of the floting battery, earnestly requests to Join the Artillery under my Command. He hop'd to be Honour'd with a Compy, which I could not promise him, believing you had fill'd such Vacanceys, but did not doubt, from his being known to many of the Hon'ble Members of the Councill, that a Captain Lieutenancy might be conferr'd upon him. If Sr you think the application proper, as time could not admitt of any other, shall be much Obliged in your Proposing him for such appointment. Col. Clemt Bidle is very well—my third letter.

I remain your most
Ob't Humble Servant,
THOS. PROCTOR.

Directed,

To Owen Biddle, Esqr., member of the Honourable Councill of Safety, Philadelphia.

Council to Col. Haller, 1777.

In Council of Safety, March 1, 1777.

Sir,

His Excell. Gen. Washington has requested this Council to send the French Prisoners now at Reading, or elsewhere in this State, to Easton, under the Care of an Officer in whom we can place confidence, in order that an Exchange may take place.

I therefore beg the favor of you to take upon you this trouble; and when you get to Easton, you are to dispatch a messenger to

His Excell^y, to let him know it, and receive from him such further Directions respecting their Rout, &c., as he may think proper to give. It is his particular desire that they may not acquire the least knowledge of our Posts, or the situation of any Part of our Army, so that I beg you to have a watchfull Eye over them. If you think it necessary to take with you an officer to assist in this matter the Council have not the least objection; he can be sent from Easton to His Excell. to inform him of your geting there.

I am with great respect

S^r, your Very Hum.

Directed,

To Coll. Haller.

Council to Committee of Lancaster, 1777.

In Council of Safety, Philad^a, March 3, 1777.

Gent.

The Council being informed that the Barracks in your Town are rather crowded, have agreed that such of the Hessian Prisoners as can be usefully imployed may be inlarged by you in the manner following:—That they be intrusted with such persons in your County as you can confide in, to keep them comfortable & safe; & that they continue subject to your call at any time. We also recommend it to you to be exact in having a return of the names of the persons who imploy them, & the names & occupations of the Prisoners you shall inlarge, in consequence hereof.

I am Gent.,

Your Very Hum. sv^t.

Directed.

To Committee of Lancaster.

Gov. Livingston to Council of Safety, 1777.

Dr Sir,

Our State not having delivered yours from the Prisoners contained in the List inclosed in your Favour of the 26th of Feb^ry, (which I received but this day,) has affected me with singular concern. The Difficulty of knowing how to dispose of them when they arrived here, has procrastined the affair, and given me great anxiety. This will, I hope, apologize for having so long put you to the Trouble of

keeping them in that Durance in which they were consigned without the agency of this State. But as General Forman is now daily expected, who, I am informed, is able to point out their several Delinquincies, or to direct us to persons who can, I have sent Lieut. Smick with a guard to receive them from your state, and sincerely acknowledge our obligations to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for securing such a Number of miscreants at a time when it was not in our Power to apply the same remedy against the Ebullitions of their Treason & Rebellion against the United States of America.

I am Sir,

Your most humble servt,

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Bordentown, 8d march, 1777.

Directed,

To The Honble Thomas Wharton, Junr, Esqr, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

[On the 4th March, 1777, The Supreme Executive Council under the new constitution met, and their minutes commenced in Col. Rec., vol. xi., p. 178. On the 5th, the Council & Assembly met & by joint ballot elected Thomas Wharton, Junr, President, & George Bryant, Vice President, of the Supreme Executive Council, forming the Executive branch of the Gov.—and at noon, at the court house, the result of the election was proclaimed with great ceremony, (a detailed account of the procession, &c., may be seen in the Penna. Gazette of March 12.) The stile & title is "His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Junr, Esq., President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsa, Captain Gen'l & Commander-in-Chief in and over the same." (See Col. Records, vol. xi. p. 174.) One of their first acts was to issue a proclamation for a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, conformable to recommendation of Congress, for 3d April. Finding "that the Civil Department requires great attention," the Council established two Boards—a *Board of War* for the land service," of 9 persons, & "a *Navy Board* with cognisance of all matters relating to the Navy of the State," composed of 11 persons. For their names & duties see Colon. Rec., vol. xi., p. 182–184. Thus organised & divided the services of the late *Council* of Safety, of which T. Wharton had been president, being no longer necessary, were dispensed with as would appear from their minutes, terminating on the 13th of March, the day on which these Boards were appointed. Many of the succeeding papers are addressed to these Boards, which must not be confounded with

similar departments established by Congress for Continental purposes.

The minutes of these State Boards have not been found.

The State Board of War was discontinued Aug't 6, 1777.—See Col. Rec., vol. xi. p. 260.]

Thos. Hanigan to Council, 1777.

March the 5, 1777.*

Sir,

Being informed of a great Quantity of Sulpher* to be refined in Different parts of this Continent, and as it is a thing not universally known, I shall if agreeable to your Board, for the sum of two hundred pounds, Disclose the whole process, and by wich Directions, you may make the most ignorant person to do it, and for every pound you paid hearetofore, I shal be Bound that it shall not cost you one shilling, I have last summer, in one Day Refined five hundred weight which is five pounds, with the small sum of four shillings, cost, The above money will clear it self in the first ten tuns.

Sir.

I wait your answer

THS. HANIGAN.

Directed,

For Mr. Writtenhouse.

Council of Safety to Gen. Washington, 1777.

In Council of Safety,
Philada. 6 March, 1777.

Sir,

Lieutenant Colonel Boehm of Colonel Geiger's Batallion of Militia of Northampton Co., now in Camp, informs us that they are uneasy under an apprehension that it is intended to keep them in service more than the allotted time for the militia on account of some of the said Batallion deserting from this City when they were under marching orders: At the particular request of Lieutenant Colonel Boehm made in behalf of the said Militia and in justice to them we take the Liberty to inform your Excellency that they have been very active Suppressing the Tories, in their County, and the principle support of the cause in that part of the Country, and that by the artifices of designing men amongst us who infused into their minds unjustifiable

* See p. 245.

suspicions against the persons in power, they were induced them to leave the service in that shamefull manner. we would therefore beg leave to intercede for them with your Excellency that they may be discharged when they have been 6 weeks in Camp, as we are inclined to believe that they are sufficiently mortified at their late conduct and will in future manifest a cheerful obedience to authority.

Directed,

To His Excellency General Washington.

JOSEPH RICHARDSON TO COL. MATLACK, 1777,

March ye 7th 1777.

Dr Sir,

These comes to inform you, as an old acquaintance, of my Present situation, and the cause of my being heer.

Some ill Dispos'd People Rais'd a report that I acted Inemical to the Present cause of my Cuntrey, which was without just foundation I was apprehended for the Same, by a number of officers and Committed to Lancaster goal without having a heering, by a mittemuss for that Purpose, the next day the Cheerman of the Committee sent for the Galer and took up the mittemuss as nothing Did appear to them of my acting inemical to my Cuntrey. But now continues me heer, for the old impeachm^t which if they Dont give me a chance of being Releas'd by tryal, bail or otherwise, it will much Distress my family, and not serving ye Cuntrey as one of my Sons is in the Service, and as he is in Duty bound to take care of his mother, &c., he will be oblig'd to Resine his Commi'tion for that Purpose.

Therefore Sir, I hope you'l be so kind and interest yourself in the affair for Justice Sake. I cant see how they can bring it to tryal as times is, altho w^d be glad if it could be done speedily, as I have long wish'd for, and made application for ye same by a fr^d to the attorney General, Judgeis &c., which I gave my attendance in Philada. Countey, for that Purpose, But Received an answer that Governm't was likely to be broke & nothing could be done at that time & I am afraid it is so still, So I hope you'l consider my situation and asist in getting me some Relief, for my familys sake if no other. Your compliance will much oblige your old fr^d and well wisher.

JOS. RICHARDSON.*

Directed,

To Col. Timothy Matlack, in Philada.

* See p. 249.

Robert Morris to Council of Safety, 1777.

Marine office, March 8, 1777.

Gentlemen,

As the sloop Indepedence is now ready to sail and we find it impossible to get a Surgeon for her, I must request the Favour that the Bearer hereof Mr. Wm. Russell may have a discharge from your service to act in that capacity on board her. If this can be done with propriety it will serve the public and oblige Gentlemen.

Your most Obedt Servt.

ROBT. MORRIS.

Directed,

The Hon'ble the Council of Safety.

Peter De Haven to Col. Bull, 1777.

French Creek, March 10, 1777.

Sir,

I am Sorry to inform you of the unhappy Explotion of Blowing up the Continel Powder Mill this Morning About 10 A oclock, Which Wee are very Supspities has bin Don by Mr. Peck or his Men, as they have yoused Severel odd Expressions, and thay had Gon Sum Distants from it at the Time it Hapned and Runn to the next neighbers house & Did not Come back till Wee Sent out A Gard for them. Mr. Beck Seem to Say at first, that all his Men Where killed; Secondly, he Said that he had Seen the Men Going to the Graining house; that & Sum other Resons Give Me Som Reson to think have Sum knowledg of it. The first Day of this instand, Col. Peter Grub Was at the Powder Mill, Sumwhat in Drink; he Damned the Powder Mill, and told Col. Dewese Let us Blow it to hell, Which I thought Was A very odd Expression When Col. Dewese told Me; & Several others heard him use that Expression; he and Mr. Peck Seemed verry Great, & he Lodged With Mr. Peck that Knight. Wee have Got the Men & Mr. Peck under Gard, till firther orders from the Counsyl. So I remain

Your Friend & Humble Servant,

PETER DE HAVEN.*

To Col. John Bull, or The Honble Council of Safely, Philadelphia.
By favour Capt Bodly.

* See Colm. Rec., Vol. XI, p. 184.

Testimony respecting Explosion of Powder Mill, 1777.

Taken Saturday, 15 March, 1777.

Peter Dehaven's Testimony concerning the burning of the Powder Mill, on Monday, 10th March, 1777.

He was by the dwelling house, about 300 yards from the Mill, and looking toward it, when it blew up; and Saw the roof move before he heard the first explosion. The second explosion he thinks was as quick after the first, as while a man could go across the room.

The people of the Factory and others ran to assist.

On enquiry of Peck where the men were, he said they were all killed; some persons said it could not be, for he had seen them just before. Mr. Peck then said he had seen them go to the Graining house just before, with a tub of Powder.

Mr. Peck went to the graining house while the Mill was on fire, set the works a going, and began to sift; whereupon he, Mr. Dehaven, directed him to leave off, and the Guard took him into custody.

None of Mr. Peck's Men assisted in extinguishing the fire. Homburgh's men all readily assisted; one of them was the man who was in the Mill at the time of its taking fire, who was burned so as that expired the next day.

Mr. Dehaven has heard that ——— Steigar should say the Salt Petre was almost expended, and that when it was done the Mill would not be of any use.

Andrew Monk's Testimony.

(being duly sworn.)

He says he wrought in one End of the Mill, in the employment of Homburgh—was in the drying House when the powder Mill took fire, but did not see it, as the door is on the side of the drying house from the Mill.

Qu. Did you hear any threats.

A. I heard Jacob Stager some time last week say, the Salt Petre would be out next week, and he, Stager, thought the Mill would not be of much use after the Salt Peter was—

Stegar being introduced—

He says he asked Stegar if the Salt petre was nigh done; he said it would be out next week, and that the Mill would be of no use when it was nigh out.

John Bouland:

Was standing Centry at the drying house; that Monk and Stagar was conversing about the Salt Petre being out; that Steigar said he thought the powder Mill would not be much after the Salt Petre was

done; he was in the foot of the Meadow when the Mill was burnt, with Mr. Pugh.

Stagar says he was in the graining house when the Mill took fire; that he was sifting at the time it happened—that he had just before assisted in bringing a tub of Powder from the Stamping Mill to the graining Mill; that when he heard the first explosion he ran off.

Levy Davis:

He saw two men from the Powder Mill carrying a tub full of Powder to the Graining Mill; that Stagar was one of them; that Stagar, being a big man, was endeavouring to heave a greater part of the weight of the tub on the other, who was a little man; and appeared to be quite unconcerned and playful. On being asked how long it was after the Tub of powder had been carried to the graining mill before the mill took fire—Answer, five or six minutes. Qu. Did you see any of the people run away before the Mill took fire? An. No, he did not.

John Flemmin: (was a Guard of the Militia.)

Was in the Guard House when the Stamping Mill took fire, and on his hearing the explosion he looked and saw the people running as if greatly frightened. Qu. Did you see the people run before the Mill took fire? An. No. Qu. How far were the men off when you saw them run? An. five or six poles. Qu. How long after the Explosion was this? An. A minute or two.

Examination respecting Explosion of Powder Mill, 1777.

Mr. Beck, the Powder Maker,

Says he heard three explosions, and ran to inquire concerning the fate of his men.

Mr. Rittenhouse says

He was at a distance when the accident happened, and can give little account of it; but that he thought it very strange that Mr. Beck should set the Graining Mill to work at such a time.

Mr. Beck says that he was greatly frightened, and also that it was usual to grain the Powder immediately, as it suffered by delay.

Mr. Rittenhouse observes, That he and the officers of the Guard thought it their duty to secure Beck and the men who ran off.

Mr. Beck says That Col. Grubb was there and behaved in his usual mad way; that he lodged with him at Mr. Dehaven's request.

Mr. Rittenhouse says That Coll. Dewees* told him that Coll. Grubb had said to him, "Damn the Powder Mill; let us blow it to hell."

Coll. Dewey says

* See page 261.

Mr. Grubb was at the Powder Mill about a week before the burning of them; That Coll. Grubb said he and four men could "blow the Powder Mill to Hell," and other rash expressions, which he thought were the effects of Liquor; That he, Coll. Dewees, had mentioned to Coll. Grubb his intention of raising a volunteer Company of Militia, if they should be called upon again, and Coll. Grubb said, next morning, when he was sober, that if Coll. Dewees would send him word he would join the said Company.*

Extract, James Read to Council of Safety, 1777.

Gentlemen,

On the 6th Instant I committed to Goal William Freymeyer and John Yerger for uttering counterfeit Bills of four Dollars, and of Two Thirds of a Dollar, knowing them to be counterfeit, in imitation of those emitted by Congress, dated February 17, 1776. I wrote immediately to Mr. Bradford, desiring him to warn the Public. I now inclose one of the Counterfeits of Four Dollars, which I would have returned. Those of two Thirds of a Dollar have no Capital Letter under the Device, as the true Bills have. * * *

I am with the *utmost* Respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most humble Servt.

JAMES READ.†

Reading, March 10, 1777.

Directed,

To The Honourable The Council of Safety of the State of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia.

By Mr. Peter Fedler.

Minutes of Council of Virginia. Expedition to Pluggy's Town, 1777.

In Council, Williamsburgh, March 12th, 1777.

This Board having from time to time received undoubted Intelligence of reported Hostilities committed on the subjects of this Common Wealth by the Indians of Pluggy's Town, and notwithstanding the just Remonstrances made to them on the subject by our Agents for Indian Affairs, they have not been brought to a

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI, p. 184, and p. 261 of this.

† See Colon. Rec., vol. xi., p. 234.

sense of Duty, but from their repeated Injuries, there is the greatest reason to expect more, and Insolence instead of the good Neighbourhood we wish to cultivate with all the Indian Tribes. And whereas the obstinate & wicked disposition of the Indians of Pluggy's Town have been represented to Congress, & they seem to have no prospects of Conciliation, but have referred to this Board the propriety of making War on them if it can be done without exciting jealousy & Discord with the other Neighbouring Nations, Resolved that George Morgan Esq'r, Superintendent of Indian Affairs & Col^o. John Nevill (or in his absence Robert Campbell Esqr) do confer with such Chief or Chiefs of the Delaware & Shawnese Indians as may be relied on for secrecy & fidelity, and represent to them the necessity of chastising the said Indians, and in case the said Gentlemen shall find that the said Shawnese & Delawares do not give reason to apprehend discord with them by reason of such a proceeding, Resolved, That 300 Militia Men commanded by a Col^o., Major, 6 Captains, 6 Lieutenants, & six Ensigns, & a proper number of Noncommissioned Officers be ordered to make an Expedition to said Pluggy's Town in order to punish that people for their unprovoked Cruelties committed on the Inhabitants of Virginia.

That the Officers commanding this Expedition have it in charge at their peril, and that all those concerned, that no Injury, Provocation, or ill treatment of any kind be done or suffered to the Delaware & Shawnese Indians through whose Country they pass. But on the other hand that the said Officers be strictly charged & commanded to conduct themselves towards them as our faithful Friends & Brethren. Government being determined to revenge the least injury done them.

That the Officers commanding this Expedition apply to George Morgan, Esqr., for Ammunition, Provisions, & Stores necessary for the Party, who is requested to give any assistance in his power to forward the Undertaking.

That the Commanding Officer ought to be directed to shew Mercy to the Women & Children & to such of the Men as surrender themselves, & to send all Prisoners taken by his Party belonging to said Pluggy's Town to this City; And as the success of this Expedition will depend upon the dispatch with which it is conducted, Resolved that if a majority of the Field Officers & Captains who are to be engaged in it shall judge it best, that the Men shall be directed to march on Horseback finding their own Horses & carrying their own Provisions, and that they ought to receive a reasonable allowance for so doing.

That Col^o. David Shepherd of Ohio C^ty. be Commander in Chief of the Expedition, that Major Henry Taylor of Yohogania C^o. to be Major, and that they nominate the Captains & Subaltern Officers out of those Commissioned in the Counties of Monongalia, Yohogania & Ohio, or either of them.

A Copy.

Signd, ARCH'D BLAIR, Cl'k.

Williamsburgh, March 12th, 1777.

Gentlemen:

You will perceive by the Papers which accompany this, that the Indians at Pluggy's Town are to be punished in an exemplary manner. When you apply to the Shawnese & Delawares on the subject, it may not be amiss to observe to them, that these villainous Indians by their frequent mischiefs, may breed Suspicions against innocent friends & Allies; for it is often difficult to tell what Nation are the Offenders.

Willing to cultivate that good understanding that subsists between Virginia & their Nations, the Shawnese & Delawares cannot take umbrage at the march against Pluggy's people, more especially as the latter march through the Country of the former when they attack us.

You will readily understand the delicacy of the Business in opening this matter to the Chiefs. Many if trusted may not keep it secret.

If the Enemy have warning, the Expedition will produce but little good compared to what may be expected if they are attacked by surprize.

You will please to communicate to the Allies of this State, the strict orders given to the Officers & Soldiers not to molest or offend any but the Enemy of Pluggy's Town, & that orders are given to spare the Women and Children, and such of the Men as submit.

I take the liberty to remind you that the success of the Enterprise depends upon the address & propriety which will I hope distinguish your conduct in communicating this affair to the Shawnese & Delawares.

I trust, Gentlemen, that you will leave nothing in your power undone that may tend to give success to a measure so necessary for the well being of your Country; And that you will not confine yourselves to the strict line of Duty with respect to what falls into the business of each Officer respectively, but act on the most liberal Plan for promoting the Enterprize.

I have the Honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most Ob^t h'ble Servt,

Sign'd, P. HENRY, Jr.*

P. S. You will communicate every thing necessary to the Officer who is to command in Chief.

* See letter from Messrs. Morgan and Nevill, April 1.

P. S. If it is judged best to go part of the way to Pluggy's Town by Water, let it be so—this may avoid perhaps all offence to other Indians.

P. H.

Directed,

To George Morgan, Esqr., & Colo. John Nevill, or in the Absence of the latter, to Robert Campbell, Esqr., Pittsburgh.

Andrew Caldwell to Council of Safety, 1777.

Sir,

In justice to my self and discharge of my duty to the publick, I take the liberty of troubling you with the Inclosed,* which I earnistly recommend to your Consideration.

I am, Sir, Very Respectfully,

Your Very Obed't Serv't,

AND'W CALDWELL.

Philada., Friday Morning, 15th March, 1776.

Directed.

To The Chairman of the Honorable Committee of Safety, Phil.

Deposition of Coll. William Dewees, 1777.

Coll. William Dewees being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God did depose and say, That on Saturday the first day of March, last, he was at the Powder Mills on French Creek, with Coll. Peter Grubb, who was greatly in liquor and behaved very madly that among other things he said that himself and four others, could in spite of all the Guards, blow the Powder Mill to Hell, and other words of the like import,—That He (Coll. Dewees) then asked him why he did not do it, to which Coll. Grubb replied, that he did not want to do it, or to injure the Mill, or words to this effect—that the next day when Coll. Grubb, was sober he did not intimate any such sentiments as he had expressed the day before, but on the contrary, when Coll. Dewees talked of raising a Company of Volunteers in case of the Militia being again called upon—Coll. Grubb,

* This probably refers to his appointment as one of the Navy Board,—see Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 187

said he would join in it and go to Camp if Coll. Dewees would inform him of such a Company being raised—And further saith not.

WM. DEWEES, Jr.*

Sworn before the Supreme Executive Council, on Saturday the 15th of March, 1777.
T. MATLAC, Secy.

GENL. HEARD TO COUNCIL OF SAFETY, 1777.

Head Quarters, Rariton 16th March, 1777.

Gentlemen,

The bearer hereof, Christopher Wood, is a Deserter from the British Army, which came in Friday last, and agreeable to his Excellencie's Orders send him to Philad^a. for your directions.

I am Gent^n.

Your most hum Servt.

NATHAN'L HEARD, B. G.

PS. Permit the bearer, C Wood (a deserter from the British Army) to pass to Philadelphia. Rariton 16th March, 1777,

By order Genl Heard.

PETER GORDON, M. B.

Permit and direct the Bearer to pass to Flemingtown from thence to Corells Ferry & from thence to Philadelphia.

Directed,

The Honble The Council of Safety, of Philadelphia.

Indorsed,

From General Heard by a British Deserter, Head Quarters at Raritan, March 16, 1777.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 184.—Also pp. 255–258, of this Vol.

Henry Fisher to Council of Safety, 1777.

Philadelphia, March, 17, 1777.

Sir,

I am commanded by the Supreme Executive Council of this State to lay before Congress the copy of a letter just received from Henry Fisher which is as follows.

[Copy from Original laid before Council 17 Mar: 1777, and sent to Congress.]

"Lewis Town, March, 14, 1777.

Gentlemen,

"On Tuésday the 11th after night there came into our Road two "Ships and a Sloop Tender, one of them has not been in our capes "before, I take her to be a forty or fifty gun ship, the other a frigate, "the sloop appears to have ten guns; on Wednesday morning there "appeared a third ship, the Frigate made sail after her, they have "not been seen since, last evening the other ship went out and at "this time they are not to be seen from the Light house."

"I should have sent off this express before, but did not know "when they might be bound up the bay and then should not have "had the horses. Our Council of Safety will not admit of a guard "when the ships are in the road, therefore I dont know when I may "be surprised and taken on board, believe me gentlemen I am in a "very deplorable state, for when the Roe buck was last in the road "I happened to be the commanding officer and only ordered twelve "men and an officer to receive the Flag as they were often send-"ing on shore when two of the Council which were magistrates and "another, came and advised that we should lay down our arms and "submit. By this you may see the temper of our people here. "These are matters of fact and such as I am able to prove; & if the "honorable Congress does not take some notice of us, the pilots will "be all taken in their beds, for you cannot think that ten or twelve "men can stand guard and protect themselves, therefore must beg "your assistance, or you will feel the effects of it if there should "come a fleet into our Bay. In the mean time I shall strive to do "every thing that lies in my power for the good of the cause."

I am Gentlemen your most humble Servant,

HENRY FISHER.*

NB. Please to call on Davis Bevan, and he can prove some of the matters I have alleged.

Directed,

To the Honorable the Council of Safety, Philadelphia.

* Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 184.

Assembly to President Wharton, 1777.

Honored Sir,

I am directed by the Hon'ble the General Assembly to transmit to you the Names of the Gentlemen nominated by them as Lieutenants & Sub-Lieutenants, for the several Counties of this State.

I have the Honour to be

Your very h'ble Servt,

JOHN MORRIS,

Clerk of the Gen'l Assembly.

Directed,

To the Hon'ble Thomas Wharton, Esqr.

David Rittenhouse to President Wharton, 1777.

Sir,

I make no doubt that the House of Assembly will before they rise, if they not already impower'd the Council to draw on the Treasury for such sums as they may have occasion for, and I shall with pleasure answer your orders whilst any money remains in my hands; but if the necessary preliminaries are not yet settled, perhaps it wou'd be better to draw on the Board of War, but this I submit to your better Judgment and wait your directions in the matter.

I am, Sir, your most

Obedient, Humble Servt,

DAV'D RITTENHOUSE.

His Excellency, T. Wharton, Esqr.

Resignation of William Moore from War Office, 1777.

Pennsylvania War Office,
Phila, March ye 19th, 1777.

Sir,

The long & close attendance I have given to Public Affairs has interfer'd much in my own private business, & affected my health.

For these reasons I am oblig'd to resign my Seat at the Board of War, to which you were pleas'd to appoint me.

I am, with great Respect,

Your most h'ble Servt,

WM. MOORE.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Junr, Esqr, Pr'st.

Report of the Barrack Master, 1777.

March 21st, 1777.

Copy of a Report made by Mr. Ozeas, Depy Barrack Master.

A Return of Abraham Witts' house in Second Street, Capt Mullen's Compy of Marines: a dirty yard, Burned the whole stairs in the Kitchen, dresser & mantle piece, the whole yard full of human dung till to the door. I desired them 5 days agon to clean it, but they have done nothing yet.

PETER OZEAS, D. B.

I have examined the above house, & find the report not in the least exagerated. General Gates has directed Coll. Melchor to get an Estimate made & give it to the Pay-master Gen'l, that it may be charged to Capt Mullen's Companies account.

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Hints for the Lieu'ts of the Counties, 1777.

Not to call out Commisa or Non Commisa officers faster than privates. See resolve of Congress on this head.

In warning out a Class or Classes of Militia to give notice either personal or in writing, left at each persons abode, of which proof may be made hereafter, in case of dispute.

To demand the expence of Substitution before Witness. If not paid, that a summons be taken out from 2 Justices (above £5) for the delinquent to appear, & show cause why the sum demanded should not be levied by distress & sale of the goods, & chattels, Land & Tenements of the party; appearance to be on a day & hour & at a place appointed. That a hearing be granted, if he appears, & attention be given to his reasonable objections.

Arms & blankets will be objects of constant search.

The ability of substitutes should be carefully regarded; for the

Commis^r of Musters, rejecting any of these, no pay can be expected. When any Class or party of Militia shall be embodied, the Lieu^t, or a deputy Lieu^t, should immediately send an accurate return of the officers & privates, distinguishing their stations, Conditions, arms, tents, blankets, & other material circumstances. And that the Commis^n of such Corps be ordered to make further return weekly. The returns to be made to the Rend^s, & Copies thereof to the Gen'l commanding the Militia of this State.

That each substitute hired by the Lieu^t, be engaged for & in the stead of some certain individual, & his name be subjoined to the delinquents name in the lists.

Tho's Dewees to President Wharton, 1777.

S^r,

Withal due Submission for the liberty I take to inform your Excellency of the Condition of the Old Goal, not knowing, some time past, who to apply to. As in different parts of it is out of repair, and not altogether Secure for the Persons Committed under my care, I therefore most humbly Solicit your Excellency to appoint some proper Person to inspect the same. And am with due Deference,

your Excellency's most humble,

& obedient serv^t,

THO'S DEWEES.

Philadelphia,
Mar. 22^d, 1777

Directed,

To His Excellency Thos Wharton, Esq., Captain General, & Commander in Chief, &c., &c.

Supreme Executive Council to Lancaster Comm'e, 1777

Sir,

It being represented to the Council by Mr Christian Wirtz that, on account of the late riot at Lancaster, he understands a number of persons have threatened him, by reason of which his life and property, he apprehends are in danger. It is therefore recommended to the Committee of your County to hear M. Wirtz in his Defence, and grant him such releif as the nature of his case will admit, until Justices be properly commissioned to keep the peace, &c.

Council Chamber,
Philadelphia, March 25th, 1777.

William Atlee, Esqr, Lancaster.

President Wharton to Gov. Livingston, 1777.

Sir,

Several Prisoners from the State of New Jersey, who are confined in the Goal of this city, have petitioned for a hearing. But as the Council is wholly unacquainted with their cases, and it being a business not properly belonging to this State, we can do nothing in it, farther than to remind you of their situation, by inclosing you a List of them as it is handed to us by the Keeper of the Prison. The State Prison is much crowded, and many of the Prisoners sick, which renders it necessary to take every step which may be proper to lessen their number.

We forbear to press this matter as we are confident your Excellency will pay a proper attention to it.

I am sir, your obedient servant,

T. W., President.

Council Chamber,
26 March, 1777.

Directed,

To His Excellency Wm Livingston, Esqr, Governor of the State of New Jersey.

President Wharton to Owen Biddle. Jun., 1777.

In Council.

Philad., March 27, 1777.

Sir,

The Council is well convinced of the propriety of the Proposal made by your Board, to allow four Dollars to each recruiting Officer for every able Bodied Man he may enlist after this date, which they request you to signify to the Officers. The Council thank the Gentlemen of your Board for the attention they pay to the Publick Service, and with much respect, I am,

Gentlemen,

your obedient hum^e sert,

THO. WHARTON, Jun., Pres^t.

P. S. The Council will be pleased to see two Gentlemen of your Board to-morrow, 3 o'clock, to confer with you on the propriety of an additional number to your Board, & the *Pay*.

Owen Biddle, Esq.

Board of War to Supreme Executive Council, 1777.

Pennsylvania War Office,
Philad^a, March 27nd, 1777.

Sir,

The imminent danger to which this City and State stand exposed requires that every means be made use of to provide for their Safety; and as the enlisting Soldiers into the Pennsylvania Regiments hath not gone on with all the success we could wish, we would beg leave to recommend as a greater encouragement to the several Officers employed in the recruiting Service, as well as in Consideration of the dearness of Provisions and all other Necessaries, That each recruiting officer be allowed four Dollars by this State for every Stout able Bodied man enlisted by him after this day.

We hope by this encouragement the service will go on more successfully, and our Regiments be much sooner in readiness to take the Field.

By Order of the Board,

OWEN BIDDLE, Chairman.

Agreed to the above.

T. W.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, jun^r, Esqr, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, March 29th, 1777.

Whereas, Edmond Minyer, Adjutant of the Regiment commanded by Coll. Moses Hazen, stands charged by an Inquisition taken before the Coroner of the County of Lancaster in Pennsylvania, with the Murder of Jacob Gross, late of said County, deceased.

Resolved, That the said Edmond Minyer be delivered to the Civil Authority of Pennsylvania, that he may be tried according to Law.

By Order of Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, Presid^t.

Sir,

In consequence of the foregoing Resolution, you are hereby directed immediately on Receipt of this to Deliver up to the Civil Authority of this State the person mention'd in the said Resolve.

I am, Sir,

Your very hum. Servt,

JOHN HANCOCK, Prest.

Philadelphia, 31st March, 1777.

Directed,

To Lieutenant Colonel Antill.*

John Hancock.

GEORGE CAMPBELL TO SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, 1777.

Dear Sir,

I am sensibly convinced of your friendship in interesting yourself in my favour for obtaining the Office of Prothonot'ry of the County of Philadelphia. I set too the proper Value upon the kindness of the other Gentlemen of the Council who favour'd me with their Voices on the Occasion. It was an Office in the Line of my profession, which I thought I could execute with Fidelity and usefulness to the Publick. Under the Influence of my Wishes to serve the Publick, as well as my family, I applied for the Appointment, not attending to the Forms which I am told are thought necessary for me to go thro' before I enter upon the Office. I wou'd therefore take the Liberty of Enquiring whether I am to take the Oath prescribed by the Form of Government in all its parts: because if this be the Case, I must decline the Honour intended me, not choosing to tie down my Conduct to the Support of what I do not totally approve. I should be happy to accept the Office, and am Willing to take an Oath to support the Freedom & Independance of the United States of America, & renouncing all allegiance to the British King. I am also Willing to take the Oath to the Government of this State, leaving out "*as Established by the late Convention,*" being firmly convinced that Alterations are absolutely necessary to be made in the said Constitution and Form of Government, that peace and Union may be restored among the Inhabitants of this State, and our Government have that Vigour and Influence which are so necessary to be exercised in our Opposition to our common Enemy.

I am, Sir,

Your obliged humble Servt,

GEO. CAMPBELL.†

30th March, 1777.

Directed.—To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Junr, Esqr.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., pp. 190, 195. † See Ibid.

Examinations in Case of James Molesworth, 1777.

Philadelphia, March 25th, 1777.

No. 1.

This is to Certify that James Molesworth said that he came from New York, and was sent by Lord Howe to Philadelphia, for to get Pilots to go to New York to bring round the Ships of War to take Philadelphia, & this said Molesworth asked me to go and he said that it would be the making of me, and I should be upon pay from that time till I got there; & he said that he had Horses to convey me or two or three pilots there safe, and that the tenth of April they wou'd be ready for to come to Philadelphia, and that they have got a large Number of Boats for that purpose; and I denied going, then she told me to consider of it, & to call and see him again at a set hour, and I did not go at that time, and I have not seen him since, for I wanted some advice first from some of the rest of the young fellows for to go and take him up. As witness my hand.

JOHN ELDRIDGE.

—

Philadelphia, Mch 26, 1777.

No. 2.

This is to Certify that Abagail McCoy sent for Andrew Higgons, pilot, upon the Account of the above Molesworth, she took said Andrew Higgons into a Room, she said that if you will go to New York to Lord Howe, you shou'd be upon pay all your Life time, besides five hundred guineas a present to him, she says that you need not to be afraid, for there is a man to convey you safe there which has come on purpose from Lord Howe; he has got three horses for that purpose for to get three pilots, as Witness my hand.

ANDREW HIGGONS, Pilot.

—

No. 3.

Philadelphia, March 26th, 1777.

This is to Certify that Abigail McCoy sent the above Andrew Higgons for me at Three o'Clock. He to carry on the Scheme to Supprys and to take up the villain, he came and told me that he could catch a parcel of Tories that had a protection from Lord Howe. I immediately went to her house; she began to ran down our people. I, to carry on the scheme, sided with her. Then she took me on one side; asked me whether Higgons had said any thing to me. I told her he had; she then asked me if I would go to New York—That I should be rewarded well by Lord Howe, for he would be ready to sail by the 10th of April for the Delaware, if he could get

but two or three Pilots, & she told me that all our Cannon will be Spiked up by some of our people that tends the Fort Island. Likewise she desired me to meet the said Molesworth at her house at seven o'Clock this evening, as witness my hand,

JOHN SNYDER,
Chevaux de frize pilot

No. 4.

At a Board of War, 27th March, 1777.

The Examination of John Eldridge of the City of Philadelphia, Pilot.

Monday evening last about 8 o'clock, James Molesworth came to ye Examinant's Lodgings & said he wanted to speak to him about an affair which would take some time Ex^t said he was engaged Molesworth desired to see him next day, Ex^t consented, & requested he would leave word at his Lodgings where he should see him. Examinant came home next morning & Land lady with whom Molesworth had left word, told Ex^t to go to Mrs. McCoy's by Direction of Molesworth. Went to Mrs. McCoy', Molesworth not there, but Mrs. McCoy, took Examin^t into a Room and asked if he would go to Lord Howe as a Pilot to assist in bringing the Vessells round to Philadelphia, Examinant said he would not go, but would go and see Mr. Molesworth & talk with him. Then Mrs. Brien (his Land lady who had accompanied him to Mrs. McCoys) went wth him from McCoys to show him Molesworth's Lodgings where he saw Molesworth who asked him if he would go to New York, to bring the Ships of War round, Ex^t told him he did not think he could go safe. Molesworth said he had Horses with which he could convey him very safely there that he should be upon pay from that time if he would enter & have any sum he would ask after he got there. Examinant told him he did not choose to go then, but would consider of it, & meet him at two o'clock this afternoon, Examinant did not meet Molesworth at the Hour appointed. On leaving Molesworth he met Andrew Higgons, to whom he communicated what had pass'd. They concluded to try to take Molesworth up. They staid till the next morning before they attempted executing their plan & in the Interim, met with & told Jno Schneider the affair. In the conversation with Mrs McCoy she told him there had been a Captain of a man of War in Philadelphia under the disguise of a Waggoner who lodged at Mrs. Bryans one Night, & slept with a Pilot, from whom be endeavour'd to find out every thing useful to his scheme of procuring Pilots, on which Errant he came. The Pilot with whom he lay ignorant of his Intentions.

Molesworth told the Examinant that ships were to come round to

this place the 10th April next & that they had boats & every thing in order for coming.

After the Examinant had been to Molesworth, Mrs. McCoy came to his Lodgings & asked the Examinant if he had agreed with Molesworth, he told her he had not, as he did not choose to go. She desired him not to betray any of them by letting anything be known which had passed between them, the Examinant promised he would not, thinking he must deceive her the better to effect their scheme: She asked whether he thought Andrew Higgons would go. The Ext told her it was very likely he might, She sent for Higgons.

Farther saith not

JOHN ELDRIDGE.

True Copy

RICHARD PETERS Sec'y.

No. 5.

Andrew Higgons of Philadelphia, Pilot, being sworn & examined saith.

That he lodged at John Brien's Taylor, in Front Street just above Lombard Street in the City of Philada. That Mrs. McCoy came to Bryans & desired the Examinant to call a Sundown at her house in Union Street which he accordingly did but she was not at home. Mrs. Bryan told the Examinant that Mrs. McCoy had sent her negro after night to desire the Examt would call at her house. Mrs. Bryan requested him to go again yesterday morning to Mrs. McCoys. He went but she not being up, he called in an hour after, when Mrs. McCoy took him into a Room & said she wanted to ask him particular Questions. She asked him if he would go to New York to Pilot one of the Vessels round. He asked her how he should go without being catch'd, She replied, if you will go, it will be the making of you, as you will be upon Kings pay all your lifetime. That besides he should receive five hundred Guineas as a present on his arrival at New York. That a person was sent by Lord Howe from New York for the purpose of engaging Pilots. The Ext said he wanted to see the man. She then said if he could call at Dusk, he should see the man who was out of town, not choosing to appear in the day time. She inquired if he could get another Pilot. He told her he could get a Chevaux de Frize Pilot. [The Examinant had previous to this talked with Eldridge & Snyder and had agreed to their scheme of discovering the Persons concern'd on behalf of the Enemy.] He agreed to speak to Schnyder the Chevaux de Frize Pilot, & if he would consent to go, the witness had agreed with Mrs. McCoy to inform her. He then went and conversed with Snyder & afterwards went back and informed Mrs. McCoy that she might depend upon him. The Ext brought Snyder to Mrs. McCoy's & after some conversation which pass'd between Snyder & Mrs. McCoy in presence of the witness, it was concluded that they should meet Molesworth in the evening who

was the person sent by Lord Howe. Snyder & the witness went in the evening to Molesworth at Mrs. M'Coys. Molesworth asked Mrs. M'Coy if she had spoken to them about that affair, which he was on. They were then called into the room & Molesworth, Snyder & Witness only remained together. Molesworth open'd the affair to Snyder said he was employed & was the person mentioned by Mrs. M'Coy, & desired him to engage as a Pilot to bring a ship round from New York, the Eagle as the Witness believes. Snyder said he would not go under an hundred Pounds. Molesworth said £100 was too much and another thing he had not the money, but he would engage him on good pay, that he had a good friend just by with whom he would consult & if his friend thought he should give the £100 he would call in a few minutes & let them know. Molesworth went away & returned in about 15 minutes, The Examinant says Molesworth went up Union Street to the westward. On his return asked Snyder if £30 would do, Snyder said no. Will £40 do between you? Witness said give us £50 & we will go. Molesworth then went away out of the house & brought the money & paid £50 to Snyder to be divided between them. After this Molesworth wanted them to stay till next morning, as he had but two horses & he wanted to go with them himself. But they expressed a desire to go that Night & he agreed that they should go as far as Germantown if they could make out with one horse. They were to call at his Lodgings in Chesnut Street for the horse and proceed to Germantown at a Tavern there, (the name of the Keeper whereof he forgets) and call in Molesworth's Name for anything they wanted. They agreed to these terms and parted, & went on search of Eldridge whom they found. They then agreed to go to some Committee & give Information. On their way to the Committee they met Captain Casdrop & told him their case, what they were after, and would be glad of his Assistance. Casdrop took them into the Boatswain & Call and read over the memorandums they had severally made of the Transaction. Casdrop advised 'em to get the City Guard to go with them. This was after ten at night.

Mrs. McCoy said the Fleet from New York were to sail the 10th of April if Pilots could be got.

Witness and several others went to Molesworth's Lodgings & assisted in seizing him, and when taken, he cried out, "*Then I am betrayed.*"

Taken & Sworn 27th March, 1777.

RICHARD PETERS, Sec'y.

No. 6.

The Examination of John Snyder who being sworn & examined deposeth and saith:

He Came from Chester the Night before last. Eldridge & Higgons came to his House. He went out with them. They asked him if he would go to Mrs. McCoy's. The Witness consented to go to Mrs. McCoy's, but she being a bed, they came away, & on their

return the Witness asked Eldridge if he had been there, said he had been there last Night. The Witness asked him if he had seen any strange Gentlemen there who had not been there lately, [Deponent having had some suspicions while at Chester of some Plan going forward to engage Pilots.] Eldridge said he had seen a stranger, Eldridge said Witness knew him, but had not seen him a great while. Witness desired to go into a house with him & relate the matter for he suspected there was such a thing going on, & "*have him he would if it were possible.*" They went into Mr. Turner's Tavern together on Market Street Wharff, where he related what had pass'd between him and Molesworth. They then went to Deponent's House to take down in writing what Eldridge knew, & then Higgons (who had left them) returned, and desired Witness wou'd call at Mrs. McCoy's at three o'clock. He went there and Mrs. McCoy enquired if Higgons had said any thing to him. He replied he had. When Mrs. McKay asked if Witness would go to New York to pilot the Eagle Man of War round to Philad^a., he said he would, if he could get off clear. She said it would be the best thing he ever did for himself, & informed him that all our Cannon wou'd be spiked up by some of our own People who attended the Fort. She then desired the Witness to call at 7 o'clock and he wou'd see the man who was to convey them off. At 7 o'clock Higgons & Witness went together to Mrs. McKay's & soon after their being there James Molesworth came to them. Molesworth asked if Mrs. McKay had spoken to them. Witness told him she had. Molesworth asked if Witness would undertake what Mrs. McKay required of him. He replied he would if he thought he could get clear. He then took Higgons & Witness into a room by themselves & asked him what time he would go? He told Molesworth he wou'd go at any time, if he could go on a sure footing. Molesworth said he was sent on purpose by Lord Howe to get two Bay Pilots and one Chevaux de Freize Pilot. Molesworth said as soon as he arrived at New York he should be handsomely rewarded by Lord Howe who would give him any thing he asked. On Witnesses expressing an aversion to leaving his Mother & Friends, Molesworth said he would on his return from New York, whither he was going, bring Protections for his Mother & Sister and any Persons witness should mention. Witness then said he must have a sum advanced him before he could go. Molesworth said he had not much hard money, but would give him Continental, little of which wou'd serve for the present, as it wou'd not be good long, but when the Fleet got here, he might have as much hard money as he pleased. Witness refused to go on an uncertainty. Molesworth asked him how much he wanted. Witness demanded £100. Molesworth said he had not so much, but would go and consult a friend. He went out and returned in about ten minutes and said it was too much. Asked if £30 or £40 would not do. Said it would not do for him. Then Molesworth asked if £50 would not do for the two. Witness said then, he did not care, but

he believed it would. He then gave Witness £50. Witness asked where he should meet him. Molesworth said at his Lodgings in Chesnut Street in half an hour's time. Higgons & Witness were to go on one Horse to the Rising Sun and there wait until morning when he would come to them—they were to make use of his Name at the Rising Sun & they would have any thing they wanted. After this conversation Higgons, Eldridge & Witness having met together and agreed to discover & take Molesworth on their way to the Council of Safety, met with Capt. Curdrop & shewed him the Memorandums they had taken. They went to Allen Moores & being join'd by sundry Persons went and apprehended Molesworth. When they went to Molesworth's Lodgings, Molesworth asked the Witness if he was ready—but Witness seized him as a Prisoner, when Molesworth replied "I can't help it." Witness asked him what he thought of him. Molesworth said he thought he could depend upon him—acknowledged he was guilty, but that the three Persons taken in the house with him were not. That he did it for Lucre, was betrayed and could not help it. Molesworth told Witness he had been with Lord Howe & conversed with him on this business.

And farther saith not.

Taken & sworn 27th March, 1777.

RICHARD PETERS, Sec'y.

No. 7.

At a Board of War, 27th March, 1777.

Examination of Mrs. Abigail McKay* of the City of Philada.

I know James Molesworth—he lodged at the Widow Yarnall's in Chesnut Street, and was Clerk to Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Powell during the times of their Mayorilty. Molesworth has been often at my house and was there last evening I heard him then hint that he wanted Pilots. I saw Molesworth give Sneider money but knew not for what purpose. Molesworth asked for Eldridge & Higgons, and I told them that he wanted to see them. I saw Andrew Higgons at Mr. O'Bryan's in Front Street, and told him I wanted to speak with him, he accordingly (as I was afterwards informed) called at my house, but I was not at home—he call'd last evening when I was at home. Yesterday morning I saw Higgons at my house, & told him I wanted to ask him some particular questions; but they were concerning my Mother. He asked me how he could go (meaning to New York) without being catch'd. I answered that I dare say he might go safe enough without being catch'd. I told him I dared to say, that it would be the making of him. I heard that a person had been sent from New York to engage Pilots, and I heard that some were going. I remember Higgons saying yesterday morning that he could get a Cheveaux de Friese Pilot. I heard them yesterday talking about the Eagle, and some of them said she

* See page 290.

drew too much water to come up. Higgons brought Sneider to my House some time before Molesworth came. Higgons & Sneider agreed to meet Molesworth at my house. I told them Molesworth was the Person who wanted to speak to them. Molesworth asked me are these the People I wanted to speak to? I said yes. This happen'd yesterday evening. I did not hear any time certainly fixed for the Fleet's being round, some having said next month, others not till the beginning of May. I might have said the Fleet are expected here. It was either Monday or Tuesday coming that Molesworth told me he wanted these Pilots. My Brother Yelvington Taylor, who is a Pilot & goes to Sea, went down in a ship of which Sneider was Pilot. I understood Molesworth he had been in Virginia.

A true Copy of the Examination of Abigail McKay, taken 27th March, 1777.

RICHARD PETERS, Sec'y.

No. 8.

The Examination of James Molesworth, born in Staffordshire, in England, taken 27th March, 1777.

The Ext has been out of place for some time. He went some time since into Virginia, returned and bought Shoes at Dover, in Kent County, on Delaware, of Alexander Rutherford, about one month since, which he sent to one Bullions, a Tavern keeper, at Baskenridge in the Jersey, where the Shoes now are. He went to Bullion's, and from thence to Brunswick, & a fortnight ago this day he went from thence to New York. He was introduced to Mr. Galloway, & afterwards to Lord Howe, who asked him some questions about the state of the City. He received at New York a commission as Lieutenant in the Army, which he accepted. The commission was procured by Mr. Hunlock. He returned to Philada to get a Pilot by Direction of Lord Howe, who instructed him to get one or two Pilots, & particularly a Cheveaux de Frize Pilot, to bring the vessels up Delaware Bay. Lord Howe expected him to return as fast as he could to New York with the Pilot. The Questions asked him by Lord Howe were concerning the Fort & the Gallies. The Ext pass'd at Millstone from Baskenridge on his way to Brunswick; he had no Guide. He came to this City this day week. Lord Howe authorized him to stand on no cost, but did not fix any sum; his Lordship gave him no money. The Ext went to Mrs. O'Briene's where he saw Eldridge the Pilot, & proposed to him to go to New York, but he said it was rather hazardous, and refused to go. Spoke also on the same subject to Higgins the Pilot, who said he could get another Pilot to go. Mrs McKay introduced him to Higgins. The Examinant had desired Mrs McKay on monday to speak to some Pilots, & told her he wanted a Pilot to go to New York & Pilot the fleet. She said she believed some of the

Cape May Pilots would do it He told Mrs McKay Pilots wou'd receive a handsome Present and enter into Pay. Yesterday afternoon Mrs McKay told him Sneider & Higgins wou'd be at her house. The Examint met Sneider & Higgins at Mrs McKay's at 7 o'Clock. He asked Sneider if he would go? Sneider said he had an elderly mother, & must have money to leave with her. Sneider asked one hundred pounds. The Ext told them he would consult some body about it. The Ext then walked up Street, and down again, but went into no house. He then returned, and they agreed to take Fifty pounds; he paid them fifty Pounds, which was all he had. He had the money in his Pocket when he first met Sneider & Higgins, but went out to recollect himself. They wanted to go off immediately. He said he had not Horses; They agreed to go on one Horse. The Ext then told them to go to the Rising Sun & there wait for him, and make use of his Name, & they wou'd get up & let them in.

The Examinant in New York was carried to Mr. Galloway by Mr. Hunlock. Mr Galloway asked him about the State of matters; asked whether the army was sickly, & in what numbers. He said he did not know the state of the army, but had heard it was sixty thousand strong. At Brunswick He was examined by Lord Abercrombie & General Skinner; he told them he had heard our army was sixty thousand strong. Mr. Galloway was present at the Conversation between Lord Howe & Molesworth. He saw a Mr William Stewart in Brunswick, who married at Pluckamin about two year's ago. The Examint told Higgins that the English had Boats and every thing ready to come this way, but cou'd not tell when they wou'd come. He was two Days at Brunswick. The Light Horse there are very fat, other horses very poor; a great number of horses die for want of Hay, no others but officers having Hay. The army healthy at Brunswick. Does not deny his being guilty. He arrived at New York in the Evening, and was carrd to Mr Galloway in the morning, & to Lord Howe the next day. He told Mrs O'Bryan of the Scheme; she said she would mention it to some of the Pilots, as they all lodged at her house. Further saith not.

JAMES MOLESWORTH.

A true Copy.

RICHARD PETERS, Sec'y.

No. 9.

Sarah O'Brien* being examined, saith;—

She knows James Molesworth, and has been acquainted with him about six months. He has been at her house—he was there the Night before last; he said he call'd to see them. Is not much of an acquaintance, he having never been at their house above 4 or five

* See page 290.

times. The last Time before the one before ment^d was last Christmas. He said he had been in Virginia, & that he had also been at a place called Baskenridge in the Jersey. Molesworth came to her house and asked for John Eldridge. Eldridge was there, but Eldridge was going to assist in getting off a Brig. Eldridge agreed to come to her house at ten o'Clock that Night to meet Molesworth, but Molesworth went away, & desired the Ex^t to tell Eldridge to call at M^rs McKay's in the morning, & that Examinant should go with Eldridge to the Widow Yarnall's where Molesworth lodged. She went with Eldridge to the Widow Yarnall's. Molesworth never told her the reason why he wanted Eldridge. Never heard M^rs McKay say what Molesworth wanted with Pilots. The Examinant heard M^rs McKay say she had been speaking with John (meaning Eldridge) about a certain affair, but he would not agree with her. Well, said Ex^t, settle it among yourselves. M^rs McKay sent a Negro wench to Ex^t's house for Higgons yesterday evening. She told Higgons M^rs McKay had sent, & afterw^ds asked Higgons if he had been at M^rs McKay's; he said he had, but she was not at home; this was about 11 o'clock, A. M. The Examinant knows very well one Haselett who lives at Edenstown in the Jerseys, who came in the habit of a waggoner, & lodged at her house one Night; a tall man with black Hair; had a blanket Coat; said he came for a Hhd. of Rum. He came to the Ex^t's House with a boy named Richd Gilgrist, whose Nurse she was. Put up at B. Davis's at the sign of the George. The man in the Blanket Coat lodged with William Skillinger, a Pilot, who lives at Cape May. This man breakfasted, dined, supped, & lodged the next day and Night at her house. There were a good many Pilots in the House the next Night with whom the Blanket Coat man associated. The Pilots had no Rum to sell. Said he & the little Boy drove the Waggon. She got acquainted wth Molesworth coming *in & out* at M^rs McKay's. Blanket Coat man said an old man, one Blair, had brought butter down in the Waggon, & was a Neighbour of his. Lived about 12 or 13 miles from Easton, near one Millers's Tavern, who is married to Hazelett's aunt.

SARAH O'BRYAN.

The above is a true Copy of the Examination of Sarah O'Bryan, taken 27th March, 1777.

RICHARD PETERS, Sec'y.

No. 10.

At a Board of War, March 28th, 1777.

Abigail McKay having desired to be brought before the Board to disclose all she knows relative to the Affair ment^d in her former Examination, further saith:

Last Monday Evening, which was the first time she ever heard of the Affair, Molesworth came to her house & asked for her Brother, with whom he had very particular business & wou'd not miss her

Brother for Twenty Pounds. She said her bro^r was gone down with a Vessel, & on asking what he wanted, he said he wanted to employ Pilots to bring the Fleet round from New York, Molesworth said he was employed by Mr. Galloway to do it. Heard Molesworth say he had a Partner & when he went out for Money to pay Sneider, he said he went to his Partner; She knew Molesworth's Character to be that of a Tory, his Conversation frequently tending that way. Mrs. Brien knew the whole affair fully. Molesworth on his application for her Brother told her at once the Reason why he was so anxious to see him. She told him her Brother would not engage in any such thing. She understood from Molesworth that he had gone frequently to New York and could go there without any Danger when he pleased. Molesworth wou'd often go out of Town, & on his return She would ask him where he had been, he used to tell her to Maryland or Virg^a, but she has since heard him say he had been to New York at the several times she thought he had been to Maryland or Virginia. Molesworth said he would go to New York & come back once more & after that would go to New York & not to return until the Fleet came. She heard Molesworth say he wou'd get a protection for his Family, he said also he was glad our people did not expect the English 'till May, for they would be here sooner. She heard Mrs. O'Brien say, or understood from her Discourse, that a Captain of a Man of War had been here in Disguise, he was dress'd in a blanket Coat & slept at her house with Bill Skillinger, with whom he talked a great deal, but found Bill to be a great Whig. Examinant was down at the Capes to see her Mother, & has been in Town only two weeks.

her
ABIGAIL ⋈ McKAY.
mark.

—

On being further examined A. McKay says Mrs. Bryan spoke to her on Saturday & she mention'd it to Nathan Church (Pilot) who said he would go if he could get away, but believes he said so for the same purpose as Mr. Sneider agreed to go.

Molesworth has been acquainted with Mrs. Bryan ever since McKay lived in Union Street, which is two years; they saw one another at McKays house & has often heard Molesworth say he had been at Mrs. Bryans, & she (the Ex^t) has seen him there several times.

A true Copy of the Examination of Abigail McKay, taken 28th March, 1777.

RICHARD PETERS, Secry.

No. 11.

Confession of James Molesworth, 1777.

When the Enemy advanc'd, Mr. Thomas Inform'd me that the Posts at the Ferry were to be cut down, and the Bridge over Ogdens Ferry to be cut away, and the Cannon at the Fort to be Spik'd by a Person on duty there.

Mr. Warron, alias Caton, went in Company with me to the Jerseys, we met with Jonathan Henry Smith at Bullions Tavern who said he would take us safe through the lines which he accordingly Perform'd; we crossed at Milestone Bridge; We Inform'd Bullion we were going to New York, who shook his head & said he was much frightened for us.

We went from Milestone bridge to Lord Abercrombie, who sent us to Lord Cornwallis; from thence we went to General Skinner, who was very desirous to know whether General Dickinson had resigned or not, I there found the Hessian Troops were very sickly & numbers died every day.

Colonel Ball offer'd me a Captain's Commission, which I refus'd; & have never yet had any Commission from the British Generals.

On my return to Philadelphia I acquainted Mr. Sheppard & Joseph Thomas of what Lord Howe had mention'd to me respecting the Pilots, Sheppard told me he expected two every day, and that a Mr. Cameron who he had mention'd the subject to had been looking for them for some time; said Cameron broke his leg a short time agoe.

Mrs. Bryan Inform'd me she had been tampering with some of the Pilots to bring the British Fleet up the Delaware, and Mrs. McCoy afterwards consulted with Mrs. Bryan, she told me if I would call at her house that afternoon I could have an opportunity of Conversing with the Pilots about going to New York, which I accordingly did and we Concluded to go on Horseback, one of which Mr. Sheppard was to Provide, Who Likewise advanc'd me the £50 and told me that sooner than Loose the Pilots he would advance £100 if he never got a Copper in return. Mr. Sheppard Inform'd me he had three hundred Head of Cattle already provided, and could procure three hundred more if he knew where to deliver them or when the British Troops would be round.

When I Inform'd Sheppard I was ready to set off he applied to Mr. Fox, the Farrier, for a Horse; who Inform'd him he had none, said it looked odd his applying for Horses at that time of Night, he thought he had better wait untill morning, said Fox was present when I received the money.

Sheppard delivered a Book to Warren, alias Caton, which he was to deliver to Mr. Galaway, on Mr. Galaway's receiving it he applied it to the Fire, which enabled him to read it; no letters appeared before; Part of the Contents were that Caton might be trusted.

The above is what the Deceas'd Molesworth Communicated to us the Evening before his Execution,* & requested when under the Gallows it might be made Publick.

WALTER STEWART,
Lt. Col. & A.D.C. to M. Gen. Gates.

THOS. PROCTOR, Col. Reg't of
Pennsylvania Artillery.

PENNSA. WAR OFFICE TO GENL. LINCOLN, CASE OF JAS. MOLESWORTH, 1777.

Pen^a War office, March 31st, 1777.

Sir,

We have lately discovered a dangerous plot against this State for wch a certain Molesworth, who had a Lieu^t Commission under Genl Howe, was this day executed, he has accused the following persons of being concerned in it with him, viz.—Luke Caton, alias Warren, William Sheppard, Thos. Collins, lately a clerk under Genl Miflin, & Jonathan Henry Smith, who passes under the denomination of Colonel Smith, and frequently is seen about Bound Brook & has said that he is allowed to pass from Bound Brook to Brunswick, by his Excellency Genl Washington & Genl Howe. We do request you will give all necessary orders for apprehending them. We have sent Capt R. Stayner to your Quarters with orders to use his best endeavours to apprehend them, he is furnished with the best description of their persons we can obtain.

Its likely some of these men will attempt to escape by the way of Middletown point, the Hook or Black Point, and it would be proper for the persons that go to Monmouth County, Jersey, to apply to Col. Foreman.

Directed.

To Genl. Lincoln.

* He was executed March 31, 1777. See Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 197.

State Board of War to Genl. Putnam, Case of J. Molesworth, 1777.

Pennsylvania War Office, Philada. 31st March,

To Genl. Putnam,

Sir,

We have providentially discovered a most villanous plot to procure pilots from this place to bring the Enemies fleet up this River, to spike the guns at Fort Island and destroy the Posts & Ropes at our ferries. One James Molesworth who had a Lieut^s Commission from Genl Howe, was a principal party in the plot, was tryed at a Court Martial and agreeable to their sentence was hung this day, before his execution he accused the following persons of being concerned with him viz.—

William Sheppard, Jno. Collins, Luke Katon, alias Warren, Joseph Thomas & Hastings Stackhouse, all of whom resided in this City & have absconded—and Jonathan Henry Smith, who resides near Mill stone, or at least passes by the way of Mill stone bridge into the Enemies Lines, he frequents one Bullings, Tavern not far from the place before mentioned, and is said to be or has been a Colonel in the Jersey Militia. He is employed to carry intelligence from our Tories into the Enemys lines.

We have sent Captain Roger Steiner to endeavour to apprehend them, and have no doubt you will afford him all necessary assistance.

By Express arrived this day from the Eastward Congress have intelligence from Dr Franklin, at Paris, that the French are arming at all points, the nation universally desirous of a war with England, France and Spain will each of them have 30 sail of the line fit for sea by the 1st of April next, and the French Ministry & Spanish Ambasador at Paris assured D^r. Franklin that they would give us such assistance as they could. That the French Merch^s had formed a Bank of 2 million of Livres, to support the credit of our continental money, 500,000. of which they have actualy paid, the residue to be paid quarterly. And to conclude, the Vessel which brings these despatches is arrived at Portsmouth, with 11,978 stand of arms, 1000 Blls. of gun powder, flints, wollens & shoes. We sincerely congratulate you on these events, which we hope will enable us to open the campaign on a footing with our Enemies.

Board of War to Col. Danl. Brodhead, 1777.

Pennsylvania Board of War, Philada, March 31st 1777.

Sir,

By a letter from his excellency General Washington we are informed that, viz.

"By the promotion of Major Butler, and death of the Colonel and "Lieutenant Colonel, the eighth Regiment of your State is left without "a Field Officer, I must therefore desire that you will order the three "new Field Officers to join immediately, for I can assure you that "no regiment in the Service wants them more from the dissentions "that have lately prevail'd in that Corps, discipline has been much "relaxed, and it will require strict care and attention to both Officers "and Men to bring them back to a proper sense of subordination "and duty."

You are therefore ordered to repair to your Regiment immediately, and least there should be any uncertainty of your receiving this order we have dispatched a special messenger with it, and we can have no doubt of your complying punctually herewith, as the public Service requires it.

By order of the Board,

Your Humble Servant,

OWEN BIDDLE, Chairman,*

Directed,

Colonel Daniel Broadhead, near Reading, Berks County.

Dear Sir,

Col Broadhead left Reading on Wednesday last to join his Regiment,

You friend & h. St

T. MIFFLIN,

Directed.

Friday morning, 4th April, Owen Biddle, Esqr.

Resolutions of Congress, 1777.

For the better regulating the pay of the Army.

In Congress, April 1st, 1777.

Resolved, That the paymaster or deputy paymaster general, shall pay no money but by warrants from the commanders in chief, within their respective departments, countersigned by their respective secretaries, and that the money be paid only to the person specified

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 167.

in the warrant, or to his order in writing, excepting in cases otherwise provided by Congress.

That the regimental abstracts be made up by the regimental pay masters at the close of every month, and certified by the respective colonels, or commanding officers and brigadiers general, who shall carefully examine and compare the same with the weekly returns, after which they shall be lodged with the paymaster or deputy pay master general, until orders are given for the payment.

That the regimental paymasters only shall receive from the paymaster or deputy paymaster general, the money due upon abstracts to the officers and soldiers, and the said regimental paymasters alone, shall settle with, and pay the money due to the officers and soldiers of the regiments to which they respectively belong, either in person, or to their order, and take receipts for the same, to be produced as vouchers on the settlement of their respective accounts.

That officers and soldiers who may be prisoners of war shall be made up in the abstracts of the regiment to which they belong to the time of their captivity, and authentic returns shall be made with such abstracts of the names of the officers and soldiers aforesaid, their rank and the company to which they belong, the time of their captivity, and the pay that was then due And whenever such prisoners are to be exchanged, a pay roll shall be made out by the paymaster or deputy paymaster general, for the pay due to them to the time of their return, and the money shall be sent to them and paid by the officer appointed to receive them, and their receipts immediately lodged with the paymaster or deputy paymaster general. That whenever any regimental paymaster leaves the service or is dismissed, he shall make a return to the paymaster or deputy paymaster general of the names of the commissioned and non commissioned officers and soldiers of his regiment who remain unpaid, the sums due to them respectively, and what balance of cash he has remaining, all which shall be lodged with the paymaster or deputy paymaster general, to be by him delivered to the next paymaster of the said regiment, or otherwise disposed of, as the commander in chief of the department may think proper.

That no commissioned, non commissioned officer or soldier coming from any department where a paymaster or deputy paymaster general is appointed, shall receive in any other department the pay that may be due to him, unless he produces a certificate from his colonel or commanding officer, countersigned by the paymaster or deputy paymaster general of the department to which he belongs, of the sum bona fide due to him, and deliver the same with a receipt thereon.

April 2nd, 1777.

Resolved, That the paymaster and deputy paymaster general, at the end of every month after the first May next, shall make up

rolls containing the names of the general and other officers of the army to which they respectively belong, who are not comprised in the regimental abstracts, excepting only the commander in chief of the several departments, who shall respectively examine such rolls, and issue their warrants on the paymaster or deputy paymaster general, for the sums due on the same.

That the commanders in chief of the several departments be desired to order payment to such officers and detachments of the army as shall at any time be ordered to other departments, to be made to the day of their marching, or leaving the camp, and that certificates be given by the respective paymaster or deputy paymaster general, mentioning the names of such officers and corps, together with the time to which they are paid, which certificates shall be delivered by the commanding officer of the respective detachments, or by such officers as shall be ordered without detachments to the paymaster or deputy paymaster general of the department to which they are ordered, to enable him to examine and make up their future rolls and abstracts.

April 9th.

Resolved, That the paymaster and deputy paymasters general be directed forthwith to consult the commanders in chief of their respective districts, and appoint deputies to repair to such posts and places of rendezvous, and answer the draughts of such officers stationed thereat, as the said commanders in chief shall respectively direct; that the deputies be supplied with money by the respective paymaster and deputy paymasters general, and account with them therefor, and that all other paymasters of the army cease to act at the posts and places provided with deputies as aforesaid.

April 10th.

That the commanders in chief of the several departments, previous to the discharge of any regiment or corps of militia reinforcing the army, be respectively directed to issue their warrants on the paymaster or deputy paymaster general, for the amount of the pay due to the same, and when the military chest is unsupplied, the paymaster or deputy paymaster general is authorized to draw on the President for the amount of such warrants.

June 7th, 1777.

Whereas complaint has been made that many of the regimental paymasters absent themselves from the army, by which the public service greatly suffers.

Resolved, therefore, that the commander in chief, and the commanders in the separate departments, be directed to take the most effectual means for compelling all regimental paymasters to attend punctually to the duties of their office, and that such as are negligent be punished and displaced, and that they be respectively empowered

to appoint others of ability, diligence and integrity, in the room of such as are displaced.

May 13th. Omitted in its proper Place.

Resolved, That every Warrant of a General officer, having authority to draw on the Military Chests, or Paymaster or Deputy paymaster General in any Department, shall specify the particular service or account for which the same shall be drawn, in order to enable the Treasury board and commissioners of accounts to make the proper charges, and to do Justice to the Publick,

Copies from the Journals.

WILLIAM CH. HOUSTON, D. Secr'y.

Copy of Letter, Geo. Morgan & Jno. Nevill to Patrick Henry, 1777.

Fort Pitt, April 1st, 1777.

Sir,

We had not the honour to receive your Orders & the Minutes of Council of the 12th Ultimo,* until this day. We immediately wrote to Colonel Shephard & Major Taylor to meet us here the 8th inst., to confer thereon, & determine the most effectual steps to carry the same into execution. And your Excellency may be assured we will leave nothing in our power undone, that may tend to promote the Interest of our Country in general, or the success of this Enterprize in particular—not regarding the strict Line of Duty in our respective departments, but the promotion of the service on the most liberal Plan. We, nevertheless, wish we were left more at liberty to exercise our Judgments or to take advice on the expediency & practicability of the Undertaking at this critical time—for, although we are persuaded from what has already passed between Colt Morgan & our Allies, the Delawares & Shawnese, that they would wish us success therein, yet we apprehend the inevitable consequences of this Expedition will be a general Indian War, which we are persuaded it is the Interest of the State at this time to avoid, even by the mortifying means of liberal Donations to certain leading Men among the Nations as well as by calling them again to a general Treaty. And if the State of Pennsylvania should judge it prudent to take some steps to gratify the Six Nations in regard to the Encroachments made on their Lands on the North Western Frontier of that State of which they have so repeatedly complained, we hope and believe it would have a very salutary Effect. The settlement of the Lands on Ohio, below the Kenhawa, & at Kentucke, gives the Western Nations great uneasiness. How far the State of Virginia

* See page 258—261.

may judge it wise to withdraw or confine these settlements for a certain term of Years or during the British War, is too delicate a matter for us to give our opinion on, but we have reason to think that the measures we have (tho' perhaps out of the strict Line of our Duty) presumed to hint at, would not only tend greatly to the happiness of this country, but to the Interest of the whole State; more especially if care be taken to treat the different Nations in all respects with Justice, Humanity, & Hospitality, for which purpose, & to punish Robberies & Murders committed on any of our Allies, some wholesome Orders or Acts of Government may possibly be necessary; for Parties have been formed to massacre some who have come to visit us in a friendly manner, and others who have been hunting on their own Lands, the known Friends to the Common Wealth. These steps, if continued, will deprive us of all our Indian Allies & multiply our Enemies. Even the Spies who have been employed by the County Lieutenants of Monongahela & Ohio seem to have gone on this Plan with a premeditated design to involve us in a general Indian War; for on the 15th inst., at day break, five or six of these Spies fired at three Delaware Indians at their hunting Camp, which they afterwards plunder'd of Peltries to a considerable value, & brought them off.

This was committed about 20 Miles on this side the Delaware Town, between that & Wheeling, & out of the Country or Track of our Enemies.

Luckily all the Indians escaped, only one of whom was wounded, & that slightly in the Wrist.

We inclose to your Excellency the copy of a Speech or Message found near the body of a dead man, who had been kill'd & scalped two days before, near the Kittanning on the North Western Frontier of Pennsylvania, when another Man was taken Prisoner. We suppose the party of Indians who left this Message & perpetrated the Murder, to have been hired for that purpose by the British Officers at Niagara, in order to promote an open Rupture between the Six Nations & the United States; as we had Intelligence of such a party being out, & having come from thence. In consequence whereof, & on considering the present situation of this Country, a Council of Field Officers & Captains met here & gave their opinion on certain matters, of which your Excellency is doubtless 'ere now fully informed—among other things Col[l] Crawford was requested to make a Return of the Stores requisite to be sent here, & an Estimate of the Expence of Repairs to make this Fort defensible against any body of Troops which may be brought against us by the way of Presque Isle & the Allegany, that being the Rout by which this Fort will be attack'd, if ever an Expedition should be formed against it from Canada, & not as has been intimated to your Excellency from Detroit and Sandusky, there being no Post at the latter place, & as we are inform'd but Sixty Six Soldiers at Detroit, from whence by Land to Fort Pitt is near three hundred Miles, impassa-

ble for Artillery; & all that Country we are told could not furnish to an Army of 1000 Men sufficient Provisions or Horses for such an Expedition.

Your Excellency cannot but be already informed that many Persons among ourselves wish to promote a War with the Savages, not considering the distresses of our Country on the Sea Coast. This disposition with the conduct of a Banditti consisting of 60 or 80 Savages at the heads of Scioto, may possibly create a general Quarrel. Yet we flatter ourselves that by prudent measures it is possible to avoid it. But if, as seems the inclination of some, all Indians, without distinction, who may be found are to be massacred, & even when visiting us as Friends, a general War cannot be avoided, & we fear the consequences would be fatal at this critical time; but should it please God to bless us with Victory to overcome our British Enemies on the Sea Coast, we shall have it in our power to take ample satisfaction of our Indian Enemy. In the Interim, we are humbly of opinion, that the most pacific measures with liberal Presents, if in our power to make them, will be attended with much happier consequences with the Savages than an armed force can produce. Nevertheless, we beg leave again to assure your Excellency that nothing in our power shall be wanting to promote & insure success to the Expedition now ordered to be executed. But as it will be impossible to have the Men raised & armed before the first day of June next, we shall have sufficient time to receive your Excellency's farther instructions on that head, & we shall in the Interim take every possible precaution to prevent Intelligence reaching the Enemy so far as to defeat the wise intentions of Government.

We are with the greatest Respect,
Your Excellency's most Obedient,
& most humble Servants,

Signed. { GEO. MORGAN.
JOHN NEVILL.

P. S. By Lieu^t Hollibaek who left the Kenhawa the—Ult^o, all is quiet there, & no Murders or Indian Incursions have been made into the Inhabitants, that we have heard of, since last December, when one man was kill'd on the Indian side of Ohio, opposite to the Fort at Wheeling, & one taken Prisoner—they were out as Spies.

The County Lieutenant who is ordered to send 100 men to meet Cap. Lynn with the Powder, is at a loss to know how far to proceed, or where St Louis, on the Mississippi is—there being one place of that name 160 miles above the mouth of Ohio, & no settlement or Fort less than 400 miles below the Ohio—the nearest is at the River Arkansa.

Directed,

To His Excellency Patrick Henry, Junr, Esqr, Governor of the Common Wealth of Virginia, at Williamsburgh.

Supreme Executive Council to Joseph Reed, 1777.

Philadelphia April the 1st, 1777.

Sir,

The Supreme Executive Council have appointed you to be Chief Justice of this State and as the affairs of it require immediate attention, I have it in charge to request that you will return to Philadelphia immediately, Your advice, and assistance is greatly wanted.

I am with great respect

Your most obedient

humble Servant.

T. M. Secy.

Directed,

To Hon'ble Joseph Reed Esq.,

Congress to Supreme Executive Council, 1777.

Philada. April 2d, 1777.

Gentlemen,

The enclosed Copy of a Letter from Genl Washington, containing the most important intelligence, I am commanded by Congress to transmit to you.

Altho from this Information, the Enemy are said to have in view an attack on some Part of Maryland, yet as it is uncertain where they will bend their Force, it is highly necessary that each State, and *yours* in particular, should make every Preparation for Defence. I am therefore most earnestly to entreat you, to take such measures, as in your Judgment, will be most effectual to counteract the Designs and Plans of the Enemy, should their Destination be against the State of Pennsylvania, which is by no means improbable. I have the Honour to bet

Gentlemen,

your most obedt &

very h'ble Servt

JOHN HANCOCK, Presidt.

Directed,

On Publick Service.

To the Hon'ble The Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 186, 195. 202. 249. He declined it—"Life &c., of Pres't Reed, Vol. 1, 300."

Gen'l Washington to Congress, 1777.

Head Q'rs Morris Town Mar. 31, 1777.

Sir,

Cap't Deshield of Mr. Buchanan's ship from Baltimore who was taken by the Enemy and carried into York made his escape from thence on Saturday Evening. He informs that three thousand troops British & Hessians, embarked about ten days ago from the city & Staten Island on board Transports which were laying at the latter, when he came away, he adds that the Enemy have built & are building a number of light flat bottomed boats, about seventy of which were finished. Capt. Deshield says, it seemed to be the general opinion & conversation, that this embarkation was for Chesapeak-bay with a view of making a descent on the Eastern shore, or that the troops were to proceed to the head of Elk, taking Annapolis & Baltimore in their way, there were some who thought it probable they were to go up the North river, and attempt the Highland fortifications. I have written to General's Mc Dougal & Clinton, desiring them to make the best preparations that circumstances will admit of for their reception, in case the latter should be their object.

Capt. Deshield being in company with the Captain of the Packet boat unknown to him, heard him say that a war with France was much expected when he left England which was about the beginning of February.

I have the honour to be

with great respect Sir,

Your most obed^t Servt.

GEO. WASHINGTON.

War Office to Supreme Executive Council, 1777.

War Office, April 2d, 1777.

Gentlemen,

There were two Women, Sarah O,Brien & Abigail McKay, examined before the Board of War* & committed to the State Prison as accomplices with Molesworth who was executed for traitorous Practices. These Women are thought by the Board not so immediately the objects of military Power, I am therefore directed to inform you of the matter, that you may take Order for their tryal by the civil Authority & if convicted that they may recieve such punish-

* See their Examinations, p. 275. 277.

ment as crimes of so black a Dye entitle them to. The examinations of the Culprits & the Depositions of the Witnesses are in the Office & if you think proper Copies will be furnished.

I have the Honour to be

Your very obed^t Servt

RICHARD PETERS, Sec'y.

P. S. You will perceive by the Examination, Deposition, & Confession of Molesworth, there are several persons concerned whom you will no doubt take measures to Secure & Bring to Justice.

Directed,

On the Service of the United States.

Hon'ble the Executive Council, State of Pennsylvania.

SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO SHERIFFS AND MAGISTRATES OF BUCKS COUNTY.

In Council.

Gentlemen,

Mrs. Galloway is apprehensive of receiving some insults to her person, & perhaps Injury to her effects from the publick, on account of the base conduct of Mr. Galloway towards this State in particular: the House of Assembly having enacted a Law for the punishment of treason and misprision of treason, this Council are of opinion that no steps ought to be taken against any offender, (except in extraordinary cases) but in a legal manner under the Laws of the commonwealth, therefore recommend it to you to prevent so far as in your power, any Insult being offered to Mrs. Galloway, and the publick may rest assured that due notice will be taken of all offenders against the peace and welfare of this State.*

April the Second, 1777.

Directed.

To the High Sheriff & the Magistrates of the County of Bucks

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI, p. 196.

Board of War to Col. Davis and Others, 1777.

Pennsylvania Board of War,
Philad^a, 3^d April, 1777.

Sir,

We stand in need of One hundred waggons, at least, with four horses & a driver each, to remove Sundry Stores from this City to the West side of Schulkil; we are sensible of your activity & zeal in the service of your Country; we therefore take the liberty of requesting you will immediately on the receipt of this, use your best endeavours to engage as many Waggons as in your power, and send them down to Robert Erwin, Waggon Master General in this City. You will please to order them down as soon as engaged, and not wait for any large number being collected together. They are to bring with them their own Provinder, as it will be very difficult to procure it here. Each Wag^r will be paid 30 *s* ℔ day, from the time they leave their respective homes until they return home.—There is reason to believe the Enemy will make a push for this City by Land & water very soon, and as we have great q'tity^s of valuable Stores here, prudence directs that we should get them out of the reach of their Shipping. You will please to inform us from time to time of your proceedings—a proper compensation you may be assured will be allowed to you for your Trouble.

By Order of the Board,
Sign'd, OWEN BIDDLE, Chairman.

To Colonel Caleb Davis, Chester Co^y.
Mr Mathew Brooks,
Near Col. Bull's, Philad^a County.
Major Evans, near the Yellow Springs,
Chester County.
Col. Wm. Dewees, at the Valley Forge,
Chester County.
Mr Isaac Webb, at Mill Town, Dowing Town,
Chester County.
Col. Caleb Davis, Chester Co.
Mr Robt Lettis Hooper, near Easton.
Col. W^m. Dean, Horsham.
Capt McCalla, 4 miles above Bogarts, Bucks.
W^m. Clinging, Esqr, near the sign of the Waggon, Lan^r Road.

Navy Board to Supreme Executive Council, 1777.

State Navy Board, April 5, 1777.

Gentlemen,

The following persons are recommended to your Honors, for the Commissions opposite their respective Names.

By order of the Board,

WM. BRADFORD, Chairman.

To

The Honorable The Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Vessels.	Quality.	Names.
Fire Sloop Etna,	Captain,	William Clark,
Fire Brig Vulcano,	Lieutenant,	William Rogers,
Fire Ship Strombulo,	Lieutenant,	James McKnight,
Arnold Battery,	1st Lieutenant,	Thomas Fell,
Effingham,	1st Lieutenant,	James Kirk Patrick,
Thunder Guard Boat,	Captain,	Francis Gilbert,
Dragon Guard Boat,	Captain,	Benjamin Thompson,
Lyon Guard Boat,	Captain,	Henry Martin,
Resolution ditto,	Captain,	William Lyell,
Repulse ditto,	Captain,	John Harrison,
Argus ditto,	Captain,	Nathaniel Galt,
Viper ditto,	Captain,	Stephen Beasly.

5th April.

Agreed to, (April 7, 1777),

THO. WHARTON, jun., Prest.

Commissions dated 7th April, 1777.—T. M.

9th April.

Brigantine Convention	1st Lieut,	Doug. Spencer,	Com. dated
Battery Putnam,	2nd Lieut,	George Myers,	Ap. 9, 1777.

T. M.

Directed,

To The Honorable The Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Gov. Livingston to Supreme Executive Council, 1777.

Borden Town, 5th April, 1777.

Sir,

One Michael Millingburg a Waggoner in Ray Street will be delivered to you with this Letter, by a Guard which I send for that purpose. He arrived here last night from South Amboy or between that place and Spotswood—He brought a Scots Gentleman one Archibald Campbell, just arrived at New York from London, & who came from New York to Amboy, & was passing on as he says to Maryland, where he pretends to have an Estate, & which he left about two years ago for Scotland for the Education of his Children. He came from New York into this State without any Flag, & was proceeding without any Pass from any officer of the United States. Him I detain till I hear from the Maryland Delegates, to whom he pretends to be known. As to Millingburg, he carried a number of Prisoners from Philadelphia, taken by our Cruisers, (to the Enemy) who showed him no Pass nor were delivered to him by any Officer. He brought with him the inclosed, which appears to be a Letter from a Hessian Officer with the Enemy to another at Philadelphia, which Letter, Millingburgh, when questioned about it attempted to throw into the fire. I believe him to be a great Rascal. The Letter, being in a hand illegible to me, tho' I understand enough of the language for that purpose, I cannot take the meaning.

I fear there is a Continual Correspondence carried on with the Enemy by the way of South Amboy, by the means of this Millingburgh & other Stage Waggoners from Philadelphia.

I am,

With great Respect,

Sir,

Your most humble S't,

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Directed,

To the Hon'ble Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

J. Morris, Jr. to Supreme Executive Council, 1777.

Sirs,

The Laws passed at the last Session of the Assembly are in the Press and will be speedily published. I told your Secretary that if necessary I would in the mean time make out Copies for the use of the Council, he told me he would give me notice whether it should

be done or not; and I have not heard from him since; if I had, it sh^d have been done before this Time: However I will this moment set about a Copy. Interim send you the Money Bill.

I have the Honor to be

Y^r most Obed't h'ble Serv't,

J. MORRIS, Jr.

Apr. 5, 1777.

Directed.

His Excell^y Wm. Wharton.

JOHN HUBLEY TO SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, 1777.

Sir,

The Public Business in erecting a Powder Magazine and other Military Store Houses at Lancaster, requires my imidiate attendance there, and as most of my Time will be employed in the ensuing Summer in that Business, it will be out of my Power to render my Country any Service in the Supreme Executive Council of this State. I therefore resign my seat in Council, and pray that a writ may be issued for the Election of a Counsellor for Lancaster County, in my stead.

I have the Honor to be

Your Excellency's most obedient

and most h'ble Serv't,

JOHN HUBLEY.

Philad^a, April the 5th, 1777.

Directed.

To his Excellency Thomas Wharton, jr., Esqr, President of the Supreme Executive Council for the State of Pennsylvania.

WAR OFFICE TO SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, 1777.

Pennsylvania War Office, Philadelphia, April 5th, 1777.

Sir,

The last sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars borrowed of Congress is expended. There are many of the Troops prevented from marching, and the recruiting and other public Business interrupted for want of money. We do therefore request the Honorable Execu-

tive Council would supply us with a further sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars.

I have the Honor to be

Your Excellency's most Humble Serv't,

By Order of the Board,

OWEN BIDDLE,

Chairman.

Directed.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jun^r, Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council.

SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO GOV. LIVINGSTON, 1777.

Sir,

I have the honour to receive this day the favour of yours of the 2nd instant,—and with you lament the great difficulties with which the State of New Jersey have had to struggle—and assure you that I have no doubt of this State continuing to give any further assistance that may be in our power.

It appears on further enquiry that there are nine other prisoners in the Goal of this city, which belong to the State of New Jersey, and under like circumstances with those to be sent by this opportunity. The Council have therefore determined to send them with the others —their names are Joseph Lawrence, jun^r, Aaron Brewer, Benjamin Wooley, John Swein, Richard Wilson, Vincent Swein, Theodore Rouss, George Brown, and John Mee.

I am Sir

Your most humble servant,

T. W.

Philadelphia, April 5, 1777.

Directed,

To His Excellency William Livingston, Esqr, Governor of the State of New Jersey.

Circular to Lieutenants of Counties, 1777.

Philadelphia April 5, 1777.

Sir,

The Intelligence whith the Council have received of the movements of the enemy, renders it necessary that every possible means be used to carry the Militia Law into execution, they therefore earnestly request that you will exert yourself for this purpose with unremitting attention, that the service of the Militia may be had on the motion of the enemy this may, which it is but too probable may be the case within a few days, should it be necessary to call out the militia this Spring, the Council expect it will be the last time, as they are sensible it ought to be done only in Cases of the last extremity, and we are in hopes the Continental army will be on such a footing this summer as to render it unnecessary in future.

Directed,

To Lieutenants of the several Counties.

Dr. John Connolly to Pres't Wharton, 1777.

April 7th, 1777.

Sir,

I herewith transmit your Excellency the Obligations signed by my Brother, who has mistakenly struck out the words & severally as judging it rendering Him liable for double the sum which He had entered into in the last Recognisance, the mistake your Excellency will observe to be his, from his letter which I here beg leave also to send. If your Excellency & the Council think it indispensably necessary to have these words inserted, I flatter myself it will not prevent my setting out from hence; & I shall have another of the nature required, sent down by the first opportunity. I hope that the state of my health, & past sufferings will induce your Excellency to obviate any objection which might be alleged, in consequence of his mistake will greatly add to the civilities already received from your Excellency.

I have the honor to be

Your Excellency's most obed^t Servt.

JNO. CONNOLLY.

N. B. I shall engage to send the Bond down by Express in any number of days required, if judged necessary.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 196, 200.

James Ewing to Dr. John Connolly, 1777.

Susquehanna Ap^l the 4th 1777.

Dr Brother,

I have signed the bond agreeable to Law, after strikeing out the Words, (and severally) which words, would make the security double what I enter'd into in the last Recognizance. I cant think that there was any intention to make me liable for the whole sum, should you act unworthily, But rather conclude as them words ware printed in he Blank that they escaped the Secretary's notice.

I shall expect you early next week, Archy says he will be in Philadelphia on Sunday, & I would not advise you to stay any time in Town after your Release,

I am,

Dr Brother

affectionately yours.

JAMES EWING.

Directed,

To Dr. John Connolly in the State prison, Philada.

Commission to F. Phyle, 1777.

In the Name and by the authority of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Supreme Executive Council of the said Commonwealth.

To Frederick Phyle of the city of Philadelphia, Esquire.

We Reposing especially trust and confidence in your integrity and ability, do hereby appoint you to be Naval Officer for the port and district of Philadelphia, And you are to do and perform all and every act and thing which according the laws and Constitution of this Commonwealth, to the office and duty of Naval Officer does of right belong. And all officers within this State are hereby required to be aiding and assisting unto you in the execution of the said Office.

This Commission to continue in force until otherwise ordered by this Council and no longer.

Given under the seal of the Commonwealth this 5th day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & seventy seven.

the name.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 198.

Ephriam Blaine to Pres't. Wharton, 1777.

Philada. 7th April, 1777.

Hon[d] Sir,

The Difference of sentiment which prevails in Cumberland County about the Constitution, and the Ill Judg'd appointment of part the Sub Lieutenants, are my Principle reasons for not Accepting for the present, the Commission your Honor and the council were pleased to offer me of the Lieutenancy, I shall however study to render the publick Every service in my power, and return your Honor and the Council thanks for your verry favourable opinion and Friendly offer, and

Am Hon[d] Sir
Your most obed[t] &
Verry Humble Serv[t].
EPH. BLAINE.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton Esquire President of the State of Pennsylvania, Philada.

Jacob Morgan to President Wharton, 1777

Honour'd Sir,

Your Order of the 4th instant, with the Pacquet of the Melitia Act by George Guilder this morning I received, and tho' I have been these two Weeks dangerously ill, and thro' Pain and Weakness of Body, am Still confin'd to my Chamber and Bed, utterly unable to move personally and to put the Melitia Law in force.

But am So Sincerely hearty and earnest for the Common Cause, That I have immediately Wrote and sent to the Sub Leutenants of Berks County, whom I hope and trust will without any delay put the said Melitia Law in force. And as soon as please God I may recover, shall exert my utmost Ability in doing all in my power to accomplish the same according to your Order and advise on the Important Cause.

I am, Honoured Sir (tho' weak in Body),
with Sincere respects,
Your most Obedient
Humble Servant,
JACOB MORGAN.

Caernaroon, in Berks, aforesaid,
the 8th April, 1777.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President and Commander in Chief of the Melitia and State of Pennsylvania.

By Mr. George Guilder.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 208.

COPY. GENERAL PUTNAM TO PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS, 1777.

(Copy)

Princetown, 8 April, 1777.

Sir,

By a Light horseman just arrived from Cranbury, who has been at South Amboy, I have the following intelligence.—That there are a large number of ships and other Vessels in Amboy harbour—that he saw 6 or 700 Hessians paraded in Amboy and saw a vessel laden with troops going from Brunswick to Amboy, to which place they are transporting down (in boats) all their births and cabbins, and putting them on board their ships.

They have burnt several houses and taken all the Boards off the Barns at the Round abouts, they have continually a party cutting and hewing Ranging Timber which (it's probable) is to make platforms on board their ships for the conveniency of transporting their troops.

Yesterday about 6 or 700 of the Enemey advanced (with 4 Field pieces) about 4 miles on this road, stripped several houses and barns of all the boards, and returned before it was possible for me to get any intelligence of it. Every thing both in Brunswick and Amboy has the appearance of moving soon somewhere or other, they plunder the inhabitants that are in their reach of every thing they can carry off, without giving them any reward.

Since writing the within, I have received a Letter from Colonel Forman, at Monmouth, dated the 6th April—extracts from which I send you.

"There was 15 ships came from Amboy and went to N. York on "Wednesday last, and on Saturday 14 topsail vessels came in from "sea and went up to New York. Yesterday there appeared to be a "considerable of ships, laying in the Narrows, but the weather was "too hazy to make any particular discoveries."

I shall keep out spies continually, and give you the earliest intelligence of every movement of the ennemy. I wish that the troops in Philadelphia were armed and accouter'd, and the militia ready to turn out at the shortest notice—for by their movements and our intelligence we have the greatest reason to think that Philadelphia is their greatest object at present in view.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

your obt humble servant,

ISRAEL PUTNAM.*

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 203.

President Wharton to Governor Livingston, 1777.

Sir,

Mechlenburg is safe arrived here and secured in Goal, and enquiry will be made into his conduct, which has in other instances been infamous.

The letter you enclosed is in the hands of a German to be translated; and if it is brought in time will inclose a copy of it. Coll. Coats applied to the Council in behalf of John Norris,* a Son of Wm. Norris, a lad of about 15 years of age, who was taken with Major Stockton, and is now in our Goal, requesting that he may be liberated on the Father's engaging to see him forth coming when called for—which, in consideration of the lad's youth, the Council have agreed to.

I am, with great respect,

Your Excellency's Very Hum^l Servant,

THOMAS WHARTON, jun^r.

Philadelphia, April 8, 1777.

Directed,

To His Excellency, William Livingston, Esq., Governor of State of New-Jersey.

William Atlee to Owen Biddle, 1777.

Lancaster ye 9th Ap^l, 1777.

Sir,

Under the care of Ulrick Reeber as their Waggon Master, I have just sent off Seventeen Wagons, with four Horses & a driver to each. We expect a great number more to day, to morrow, &c., from the parts about & above Lancaster, whom we shall forward under proper conductors with all expedition. Those who go from below the Town, will set off as they can get ready, as it would be inconvenient, and wasting time for them to come to Lancaster; & will, we imagine, have, each of them, a certificate from the Person in the Township to which they belong, of their being engaged by direction of the Committee for this Service.

To procure the Waggons Expeditiously, I have, by direction of Council, sent Circular Letters to one or two Persons of Reputation in every Township in the County, & by what I can hear, many more than the number mentioned in your Letter will turn out. We would have fixed the Quotas for the different Townships, but as the Q^r M^r here mentioned to us, that he had orders to procure at least a thousand, we gave general directions to forward all that cou'd be got; as

* See Coln. Rec., Vol. XI, p. 201.

you'l see by the Copy of our Letter inclosed; in doing which, we hope we have not done amiss, as by that means we shall make up the number required of us, & at the same time give him assistance.

The owners of the Teams request of the Committee, and expect that they are to receive their pay at Lancaster; & I have promised them that I wou'd write to the Board of War & request that Cash may be sent up here for that purpose. Those Teams, which have heretofore been employed in the publick service, at the request of the Committee, have been paid off by us, & they are the more ready to turn out, in expectation of getting their pay from us.

I am, Sir,

Your most obed^t Servt,

WILLIAM ATTLEE.

Directed,

To Owen Biddle, Esquire, Chairman of the Board of War of Pennsylvania.

☞ Ulrick Reber, Waggon Master, with 17 Waggons.

Advertisement for Wagons in Lancaster Co., 1777.

In Committee For Lancaster County, April 6, 1777.

Sir,

By Express this Day from the Board of War, we are informed that there is every Reason to believe the Enemy intend an Attack on Philadelphia; and it is probable are now or will very shortly be in motion. As there are great Quantities of very valuable Stores in the City, which Prudence directs should immediately be removed: We are requested by the Board, with all Expedition, to send down Waggons, to assist in the Removal of them this Way.

Some hundreds of Waggons, with four Horses and a Driver to each, are immediately wanted for this Service to whom we are directed to mention, That Thirty Shillings per Day will be given, from the Day they leave their respective Homes, until they return to the same, while in Service, allowing a reasonable Time for coming and going.

We therefore request you will immediately, on Receipt of this exert yourself in your Township and Neighbourhood, and by every means in your Power, procure as many Waggons as can possibly be had, to go on this necessary Service.

We hope the Inhabitants will turn out in this Service with Chearfulness, tho' we are sensible of the Inconveniences it will be to many at this Season, when their Farms require their immediate Attention;

but Waggons must be had, and that without Delay, and if they cannot be had by Persuasion, Compulsion will be used, and Parties of armed men will be detached to the different Parts to impress them.

We conjure you to use no Delay, and beg you will give a Certificate to such Waggoners as you engage, desiring them to carry down their Provender. Of such Persons as refuse going, you are to take an Account of their Names, and send the same to us with the greatest Expedition. The Board of War has been pleased to mention that a proper Compensation will be allowed to you for your Services on this Occasion.

You will be pleased to furnish us with an account of the Waggons you engage at our Request for this Service, with the names of the Owners of the Teams, and the Time of their leaving Home, to proceed on their Journey.

We rely greatly on your Assiduity and Attachment to the virtuous Cause we are engaged in, and are,

Sir,

Your most obed. humb. Servts.

By Order of the Committee,

W. A., Ch'n.

Directed.

To A. B. & C. D., of Township ———.

OFFICES FOR APPOINTMENT, 1777.

(Say a Brig^t, T. M.)

	Convention,	1st Lieut.	Douglass Spence.
Battery,	Putnam,	2d Lieut.	George Myers.

Recommended to the Hble Councill for the above appointments.

By order of the board.

WM. BRADFORD, Chairman.*

State Navy board, 9 April, 1777.

Agreed to—Paymaster of the Penna. Fleet to be allowed Captain's Pay.

(Commissions dated 9th April, 1776.)

* See Col. Rec., vol. xi., p. 202.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, April 10, 1777.

Resolved, That a camp be immediately formed on the western side of Delaware, to which the continental troops now in Philadelphia and on their march from the southward and westward shall be ordered to repair with all expedition.

That it be recommended to the Supreme executive council of the commonwealth of Pensylvania, to put not less than three thousand of the militia of that state in readiness to march to the camp before mentioned on the shortest notice.

That proper officers be immediately dispatched to enquire into the number and condition of the troops at Annapolis, and between that city & Philadelphia, and to hasten the march of such as are fit for service.

Extract from the Minutes.

CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Col. John Bull to Pres. Wharton, 1777.

Gen^t^,

By Major Farmer I Receiv'd your order of. Yesterday, and will Endeavour to furnish Coll. Proctor with forty men when he may Call for them. At the same time think I should be wanting in Duty if I Did not Inform your Honour what I Conceive will Be the Consequence, of which I am well assur'd you must in a Great Measure be unacquainted. The Present state or situation of your Pensylvania Rieg^t^. is Singular; they are not officer'd, neither are those officers arrang'd, nor Can that be Done until the officers are appointed; and a Great number of the Privates are Prisoners upon Parole (a Circumstance Perhaps New); these men think they ought to Be Exempt from Duty until Reliev'd, &c., and was I to send them they would Look upon themselves Still more Separated from ye Rieg^t^; there are Likewise a Number of new Recruits, who have been Enlisted by Officers who have since Left the Riegt., some in Continental Service and others Resigned—those Recruits think themselves agriev'd by being Draughted from those Gentlemen who Enlisted them and Put under Strangers. And a General Jealousy Did Prevail among ye Whole, which was that they Should Be Kept here at Work for a Time until the works were Nearly Compleat, and then Sent Elsewhere, and Reliev'd by Troops who have not Labour'd for their own Defence. These Difficulties, &c., (which

would not subsist in Reigts. in Gommon) I have been Endeavouring to obviate, and had hopes of soon having those from Camp and the whole together, the officers appointed, the Arrangement made, and of Course being in a more Regular State. The Consequences in taking them a Small Distance or for a short time, may be the same to their Disorderly Reasoning, and (with Submission) I think would if Possible be Best avoided. If the Honourable Bord upon Considering the facts which I have Endeavoured strictly to state, should be of the same oppinion, they will Counter Order their seperation, which will be a means of Keeping alive the Little Harmony I am Endeavouring to Cultivate, and Give Springs to our Great undertaking in Carrying on ye works.

I am, Gent^s^,

with Due Submision to your Comands,

Your Verry Hu'bl Servt.,

JNO. BULL.

P. S.—there are but about fifty Jersey Malitia at this Place, a Circumstance, Perhaps, which you were not Informed of.

Billingsport, April ye 11th, 1777.

Directed,

To the Hon^e^ Pennsylvania Board of War.

SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO GENL. POTTER, 1777.

Philadelphia, April 13, 1777.

Sir,

His Excellency the President commands me to acquaint you that the intelligence which has been received leaves little room to doubt of the enemy's intention of making an attempt to gain possession of Philadelphia. As you are appointed by the President & Council one of the Brigadier Generals of the Militia, and as Genl. Cadwallader is not here, & Genl. Meredith is unwell, your services in that important office is become immediately necessary here, General Armstrong alone being on the Spot to act at this important juncture. There are several Frigates now within our Bay, and the enemy are expected to be in motion by land within a very few days. You are therefore requested to be in Philadelphia as soon as possible.

I have the honour to be, with great respect,

Your most obedient, humble Ser^t^,

T. M., Sec^y^.

Col. John Bull to President Wharton, 1777.

Sir:

I was this Day favour'd with your Inteligence of ye 9th by Coll Mattlack, Respecting the motions of the Enemy, and shall Pay Immediate Attention to your Ex'ency's orders in Arming the men, Which, While in Garrison at Billingsport, will only be under my Comand.

In answer to the Colls. Verry Proper Question in asking what I think of the Enemy Marching through Allentown, Croswix, Mount Holly, Haddenfield, &c., to attack our fort, I will not pretend to say, But, Sir, I think I should be much Happier had I the Comand of the men Now here when out of the fort, as well as while in; I should then be able to Do more, and I think could with one Brigade Prevent them. But, Sir, when I am out of the Fortification my Command is at an End; I have by my Present Comision Neither Cont^l or Provintial Comand out of those Lines.

Should it be thought advisable upon the approach of the Enemy to Send any of the Country Malitea from our State, had I it in my Power to Comand the Proper Passes, Should give the Enemy much Trouble before they Perform'd the Rout above mention'd; our works are going on with as much Dispatch as Possible with our small number, but one Company of Jersey malitia are with us; many would Rather Come than go to Camp was they order'd. I Submit to your Ex'ency the Laying this Before Council, but should be glad they were acquainted with my strength and situation.

I have the Honour, with Due Respect to be

Your Exelency's Ob'd^t Hub^e Servt,

JNO. BULL.

Billingsport, April 13th, 1777.

Directed,

His Exelency, Thomas Wharton, Presid^t & Comander in Chief of Pensylvania.

Board of War to Board of War of Penna, 1777.

War Office, April 14th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

The Board of War have consider'd your Letter on the subject of Prisoners of War in this City, & are of Opinion the Continental Prisoners of War should be immediately removed to Lancaster, General Schuyler will furnish a guard if a Militia Escort cannot be had, tho' the latter will be more eligible as there are few Continental

Troops in the City. You will be pleased to distinguish between such as are confined as Prisoners of War and those charged as Tories or Traitors. This Board Have only the Direction of the former and desire your assistance in getting them conveyed away.

I have the Honour to be

Your very obed Servt,

RICHARD PETERS, Secy.

Directed,

Honble Pennsyv^a Board of War, A War Office.

The Remonstrance of the Council & General Assembly of Pennslyvania to Congress, 1777.

To the Honourable Congress of the United States of America.

In the most respectful manner sheweth,—

That the Council & Assembly of Pennsylvania have received intelligence which strikes them with surprize & Grief. They understand, that the Continental Army is upon the point of withdrawing from the neighbourhood of the City of Phila, & to leave a great part of this State & New Jersey, open to the incursions of a cruel Enemy. Against this measure they remonstrate in the most strenuous manner, as big with evils of the most horrid nature, if not with Ruin; for the reasons which follow.

They forsee from hence the full supply of the Enemy with provisions, and the consequent distress of our Army or a famine among the inhabitants.

They most painfully contemplate scenes of plunder, devastation & cruelty on the people within the Enemy's reach, & the compleat ruin of those who have exerted themselves in their Country's cause.

They deduce from these consequences, the loss of reputation to our cause, the impraticability of recruiting the Battalion of this State, of raising taxes in the far greater part, if in any of it, so necessary in our opinion & so strongly recommended by Congress; and the utter debility of government to every purpose military & civil; the final and total discredit of Continental money; and every other mischief that invasion, & want of provision, & want of protection can introduce; such as desertion from our cause, and submission to the Enemy.

They think it very probable, that by their laying open the country, the enemy will be enabled to levy soldiers in great numbers of their numerous adherents among us, & from the effects of force, fear, & distress, of the friends of the American cause.

They cannot but suggest this fear that the Continental Army can-

toned about the Country, will be weakened by the absence of officers, & that privates will be let go on furlows, from which many will not return; and that moreover when thus weakened in an extended distribution they will be extremely liable to be cut off by the Enemy, who will remain in a body in the City; unless indeed the Continental Army should take their quarters very remote from danger, & leave the Country wholly uncovered.

Besides were it possible to draw out Corps of Militia, adequate to the service, they would prevent all recruiting. But when it is considered that Pennsylvania is now exerting itself to the utmost, in every direction, and that vast supplies of all kinds for the army have been drawn and are daily drawing from it, that our Tradesmen are engaged in the publick service in their several callings, that our Farmers are called upon for immense supplies of grain, &c., which it is extremely difficult to find labourers sufficient to thresh out, that our Militia which consist of those Farmers and Tradesmen, called by Congress and by the General, have been long in the Field, and that at the same time continual and the most pressing application is made, by the direction of almost every department of the Army, for exemptions from Military duty for our Tradesmen, who, it is said are extremely wanted, this will be found impracticable as they cannot act in both capacities at the same time.

Inattentive observers, are representing this State as not doing its proportion of service in the common cause, Congress will see our real situation.

The Legislature of this State, sincerely disposed to do every thing in their power to raise the supplies required by Congress for the support of the War, are taking the most effectual measures for this purpose. But they would be greatly wanting in their duty to the United States in general and to the people whom they represent in Pennsylvania, if they neglected to inform Congress that there cannot remain a hope of effecting this necessary measure if the State shall be exposed to the depredations of the Enemy during the winter.

Confiding in the wisdom and paternal care of Congress we lay our apprehensions before you, earnestly entreating an immediate attention to our distressed situation, and that you will afford us such protection as to save us from the impending destruction.

The Council and General Assembly are sensible of the hardships of a Winter campaign and are willing to do every thing in their power to make them tolerable, and they beg leave to observe that the great number of families which have fled from the city have filled the several towns so full as to render it impossible for any considerable number of Soldiers to be quartered in them. This they conceive will make it indispensibly necessary for them to hire, which may be effected in such places as will keep the army together, and at the same time cover the country.

Hon. Jno. McKinly to Pres. Wharton, 1777.

Wilmington, 14th April, 1777.

Sir,

On the 22d Ult, I enclosed to your Excellency a blank obligation to be filled up and subscribed by those Persons belonging to this State who were confined to the Goal in your City, & such Sureties as you should think sufficient to answer the penalty thereof, if the same has been accordingly executed I request that you would send it to me by the Bearer Mr. James Adams, & thereby oblige,

Sir,

Yr very hum Servt,

JNO. McKINLY.

Directed,

To His Exellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President & Commander in Chief of the State of Pennsylvania.

☞ Mr. James Adams,

Resolutions of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, April 14, 1777.

Resolved,

That it be recommended to the Executive Powers of each of the United States to enquire into the conduct of all Officers on the recruiting service within them respectively; to remove all such as belong to the Battalions of their respective quotas, who have neglected their duty or abused the trust reposed in them, and shall be found within their respective jurisdiction, and to fill up all vacancies which may happen by such removals; to transmit to Congress all such testimony as shall be taken against any Officer or Officers, who may have marched or removed from the State to whose Battalions he or they belong; and against any Officer or Officers belonging to the quota of another State, who may have been guilty of neglect or misbehavior in the State where the inquiry shall be made.

That it be recommended to the said Executive Powers to procure exact returns of the Continental Troops in each State and transmit the same to Congress without delay, and all Officers and Soldiers of the Continental Army are hereby required to pay the strictest regard to the orders of the Executive Powers of the several States touching the aforesaid premises.

That the Executive Power of each State be authorised and impowered to order such Officers as they shall judge proper from the respective Battalions and Companies of their respective quotas, to

remain within the State for the purpose of aiding in inlisting and collecting the recruits which may be furnished under the above recommended regulations, and to convey the same to the Battalions and Companies to which they shall belong, such Officers to be under the direction of such Executive Powers respectively.

—

In Congress, April 14, 1777.

Whereas the State of Pennsylvania is threatened with an immediate invasion; and, from the adjournment of the Legislative and Executive Authorities of the Commonwealth, it is impracticable to carry into immediate execution many measures of the utmost importance, not only to the safety of this Commonwealth, but likewise to the general welfare of the United States.

Resolved, That it is the indispensible duty of Congress to watch over all matters, (the neglect of which, may, in its consequences, deeply affect the welfare of the United States) till such time as the Legislative and Executive Authorities of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, can resume the regular exercise of their different functions.

Resolved, That his Excellency the President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Common-Wealth of Pennsylvania, be requested forthwith to convene the Legislative and Executive Authorities of this State, in order that proper measures may be pursued for the defence of the same.

Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed to confer with the President of the Supreme Executive Council, with such other Members of the said Council as can be convened with the Board of War for the State of Pennsylvania, and with the Delegates of the said State in Congress, concerning the mode of authority which they shall conceive most eligible to be exercised during the recess of the House of Assembly, and the Council, in order that if the same be approved by Congress may be immediately adopted.

The members chosen, Mr. S. Adams, Mr. Duer, and Mr. R. H. Lee.

Extract from the minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

* See Appendix, p. 29.

In Congress, April 15.

The Committee appointed by Congress on the 14th day of April, to confer with the President and Members of the Supreme Executive Council of the Common-Wealth of Pennsylvania, the Board of War of said State, and the Delegates representing the same in Congress, concerning the authority which should be deemed eligible to be exercised during the recess of the Council and Assembly, report

That a Conference agreeable to the order of Congress, has been held, when the following Gentlemen were present:

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jun. Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council.

Board of War. Owen Biddle, Esq., Chairman, Joseph Dean, Richard Bache, John Shee.

Delegates for the State of Pennsylvania in Congress. Robert Morris, James Wilson, Daniel Roberdeau, George Clymer, Esquires.

Committee of Congress. Mr. Samuel Adams, Mr. Richard H. Lee, Mr. Duer.

That it appears clearly to the Members in conference, that the Executive Authority of the Common-Wealth of Pennsylvania is incapable of any exertion, adequate to the present crisis, and that it is of the greatest importance, that every power should be called forth into action, which may conduce to the safety of this State, with which the liberties and prosperity of the whole are so intimately connected. From this consideration, and at the particular instance and request of the President of the Supreme Executive Council and Board of War of the State of Pennsylvania, they beg leave to recommend the following resolutions to be adopted by Congress.

Resolved, That the President of the Supreme Executive Council, of the Common-Wealth of Pennsylvania, together with as many Members of said Council as can be convened, the Board of War, and (in such cases as relate to the marine) the Navy Board of said State should, in the present critical exigency of affairs, exercise every authority to promote the safety of the State, till such time as the Legislative and Executive Authorities of the Common-Wealth of Pennsylvania can be convened.

Resolved, That it be, and it is hereby earnestly recommended by Congress, to the good people of Pennsylvania, chearfully to submit to the exertion of an authority which is indispensably essential to the preservation of the lives, liberties and property of themselves, their families, and posterity.

Resolved, That the Commanding Officer of the Continental Forces in this city, afford every possible assistance in carrying into execution all such measures as may be recommended to him by the authority above-mentioned.

Resolved, That Congress will chearfully co-operate with the authority above-mentioned, in facilitating every measure which may be deemed conducive to the safety of the State.

Congress taking into consideration the foregoing report,

Resolved, That the same be concurred in, and that the resolutions proposed be agreed to.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

Call of the Council, 1777.

Sir,

By the enclosed resolutions you will perceive the sentiments of Congress with respect to the necessity of as many members of the Council being together as can be convened. Yet, pressing as the times are, I am of opinion it is impractible to call the Council so as to have a quorum much earlier than the time to which it stands adjourned, on account of the great distance at which several of the members dwell, and have concluded not to issue orders for it. Your advice and assistance in this time of difficulty will be of singular use, and therefore, as well as in conformity with the said resolutions of Congress, I request you will give your attendanceas soon as you can by any means make it convenient so to do before the time to which you stand adjourned.

I have the honour to be

with the greatest respect,

Your most obedient h'mble servant.

Philadelphia, April 15, 1777.

Elias Boudinot to President Wharton, 1777.

May it please your Excellency,

Being honor'd with the appointment of Commissary General of Prisoners in the army of the United States of America, it is absolutely necessary that I should be immediately provided with an acc^t of all the Expences and disbursments of the different States in favor of the several Prisoners taken from the King of Great Britain, in order that the accounts may be ready for settlements with General Howe, whenever we shall be called on for that purpose. I am therefore Instructed by his Excellency, General Washington, to beg the favor of your Excellency, to order all accounts of Expences and disbursements (as well those that have already been paid as those which are yet due) made by your State, in favor of such Prisoners, to be immediately transmitted to me at Head Quarters, with the several proper authenticated Vouchers for the same. I must also beg a return of such Prisoners as are at present in your State, with the particular places where confined, their rank, &c.

I have the honor

to be your Excely's.

most Ob^t H'ble Srvt.,

ELIAS BOUDINOT.

Morris Town, Aprill 17th, 1777.

On the publick Service :—(Rec'd 24 April.)

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr., President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Committee of Westmoreland Co. to Col. Morgan, 1777.

Hanna's Town, April 18th, 1777.

Sir,

We received your's, dated the 12th inst., informing us of the incursions made by the Indians on our Neighbouring Frontiers, which we return you our most hearty thanks. Any person appointed for victualling at the Kittanning is an appointment that's not clear to us—but we apprehend Devereux Smith, Esqr, is appointed for

that Post, which appointment we approve of, & would be glad some method could be introduced to furnish Mr. Smith with money for the purpose of victualling the Troops at that Post, &c.

The Delawares applying to you for Powder & Lead, &c., we refer that to your wisdom, & will acquiesce with you in every measure that can be taken to preserve the peace with any Tribe or Nations of Indians, on whose friendship we can depend; and we are of opinion that it would be adviseable to supply them with ammunition, &c., providing that confidence & trust could be depended in them, which we look upon you the only person to judge in that matter, & we repose confidence in your wisdom & abilities in Indian Affairs, we shall therefore readily concur with you in every measure that you may recommend for the safety & defence of this Infant Country.

We are with respect,

Your hum^e serv^ts,

SAML. SLOAN, Cha^n.
JAMES HAMILTON, Clk.

Signed by order of Committee of Westmoreland County.

Directed.

To Col. George Morgan, agent for Indian Affairs, Pittsburgh.

"Laid before the Council June 18, 1777."

Committee to Board of War, 1777.

In Committee :—

A motion being made that there is an absolute necessity of an Embargo to be lay'd on all the Shipping in our Harbour, & seconded, The Committee Voted Unanimously that an Embargo is necessary, and Refer the same to ye Honble Board of War.

GEO. GOODWIN.

April 18, 1777.

Directed,

To Owen Biddle, Esqr., Chairman Board of War.

Col. Morgan Connor to Board of War, 1777.

Head Quarters, Morristown,
19th April, 1777.

Sir,

Lieut. Robb of the Pennsylvania State Reg^{t}, who will deliver you this, is charged with* a certain Thomas W. Collins, (a State prisoner) taken up some time ago, and confined here on suspicion of being one of the late James Molesworth's accomplishes.

I inclose you a paper sent by the above Collins to His Excellency the Commander in Chief, by way of justification. It may be of service to compare with his future examination. Lt Robb is order'd to Deliver him to your Board.

I am with great respect,
Sir, Your most obed^{t},
humble Servt,
MORG'N CONNOR, Ad. Gen. P. T.

On public Service.

Directed,

To Owen Biddle, Esq'r, President of the Board of War, of the State of Pennsylv^{a}, Philadelp^{a}.

Nicholas Way to Owen Biddle, 1777.

To Owen Biddle Esqr.

Respected Sir,

In obedience to y^{r} request this will acquaint you of some West India news which I have picked up from a very honest captain belonging to this place, just arriv'd in as short a passage from Statia, he passed the men of war & made a snug harbour of Morris river, he informs that two large frigates the Perseus & Pearl with the Roebuck lay off the mouth of Morriss river in Cape May channel, he heard that some others were higher up the Bay at a place called the Narrows probably so many men of war might have happen'd on this station by accident, as the Roebuck, Pearl, Perseus are just returned from Antigua where they have been to refit; Capt. Bennet says they sailed about the same time he did, perhaps with an expectation that Philad^{a} was in possession of the *Howes*, a prevailing opinion amongst the torified part of the creoles; their ships are said to be very thinly

* See page 281.

manned as many of them died in Antigua of a malignant fever, the Capt. of the Pearl being one of the number, Several privateers are fitted at Martinico cheifly manned with Frenchmen, Capt, Munro late of Newcastle who commands one a sloop of ten guns & Sixty men, fifty of them monsieurs & counts & marquisses, had a very severe engagement with an armed Brigg from Whitehaven to Antigua, at length Capt. Munro boarded her with great spirit; one of the Briggs crew at the time of boarding aim'd a stroke intended to chop of the head of the sloops mate, but luckily it only docked him of his club & made a slight wound in his neck, by the bye if Absolams fate is an instance of the disadvantage, this may prove the benefit of long hair, the Brigg being compelled to strike was carried into Martinico. The Privateer Rattlesnake has taken several prizes, among others a Guinea ship with 500 slaves, this Rattlesnake is such a noted runner that she is said to be a terror to the English Islands.

The 5th Inst., ten sail of transports containing report said 1000 troops which were blown off our coast last fall appear'd in sight of Statia, on their way from Antigua to New York with a schooner loaded with rum convoy'd by the Mermaid Frigate. In a few days I design to visit the ground between Christiana & the Head of Elke, in comp^y with my ingenious friend, I hope to give you some acc't of the probability of this usefull scheme next time I may have the pleasure to see you at Philada.

In the meantime believe
me to be with the greatest
respect Y^r F^nd
NICH. WAY.

Wilmington, April 25th, 1777.

Directed.

To Owen Biddle Esq., Philadelphia.

JOHN HAMPTON TO MR. STOCKTON, 1777.

Elizabeth Town, April 20th, 1777.

Mr. Stockton,

Sir,

Not the least doubting you would be willing to have an exchange of your present Situation, I take this Opportunity to inform you, that if you know of any friend that will make Interest to have you given up, for Captain Nathaniel Fitz Randolph, now a Prisoner in New York, I have not the least Doubt but I can make Interest with

General Washington to have the exchange immediately agreed to on his part, and very soon brought to an issue.

Your answer by the Bearer,

will oblige yours, &c.

JOHN HAMPTON.

Directed,

To Mr. Richard Stockton, now a Prisoner in Philadelphia.

Resolutions of Committee of Safety, 1777.

April 21, 1777.

In Committee,

Voted that ye Committee appointed for Bucks, Philad^a & Chester County's be required immediately to take an Inventory of all the Flour, Wheat, Rye, & Indian Corn, Oats, Beef, Pork, Horses, Neat Cattle, Sheep, Hogs &c., also Wagons, Carts &c., with every other article enumerated in the instructions of the Hon'bl Board of War, & make a speedy return thereof to this Committee.

That the Gentleman appointed by the Hon'bl Board of War in each County keeps Copy's of the said returns & shall have it in charge And are hereby impowered by the authority delegated to us that on any sudden alarm, or any order from the Hon'bl Board of War or this Committee, that they make application to any officer of the standing Army of the United States, or Commander of the Militia nearest at hand to furnish them with a party of Men to remove off the aforesaid Live Stock, Wagons, Carts, wth every article that might be usefull to the enemy.

By order of Committee

Indorsed.—"A motion of the Committee of '50."

A List of Officers of the Pennsylvania State Regiment of Foot, Who want Commissions.

Pen^a War Office, April 21st, 1777.

Captains,
No. 1 Patrick Anderson,
2 James Marshall,
3 John Nice,
4 Matthew Scott,
5 James Francis Moore,
6 John Spear,
7 John Clark,
8 Robert Gray,
9 John Robb,
10 John Carnagan,

First Lieutenants,
No. 1 Joseph Finley,
2 Thomas Johnston,
3 Jacob Mace,
4 Thomas Boyd,
5 Joseph Brownlee, (delivered himself 26 April, 1777.,
6 William Moore,
7 George Haffner,
8 Jacob Schneider,
9 George Geiger,

First Lieutenants,
10 James Wiley,

Second Lieutenants,
No. 1 James McMichael,
2 John Gregg,
3 Samuel Henry,
4 Ambrose Crane,
5 William Harris,
6 (Wm.) McCraken,
7 John Vanpelt,

Ensigns,
No. 1 Peter Boyle,
2 Robert Gregg,
3 James Bickham, delivered himself 26 April, 1777, T. M.
4 John Parks,
5 James Dugan,
6 Joseph Collier,
7 John Vanwinckle,
8 Patrick Fullerton,
9 Joseph Gorman,

The whole Commissions to be dated April 18th, 1777.

JACOB S. HOWELL, Secretary.

Directed,
To Timothy Matlack, Esq.
Indorsed.—List of the officers of Pennsylvania State Regiment.

Continental Navy Board, to State Board of War, 1777.

Gentlemen,

We shall be much Obliged to you to lend us seventy, two pounds shott for the bearer, Capt Albertson, who is in every other respect now ready for Sea. Be assured We shall take Care to replace them as soon as possible. We remain

Yr most hble Sert's

JOHN NIXON.
JOHN WHARTON.

Navy Board, April 22, 1777.

Directed,
To the Honourable the Board of War of the State of Pennsylvania.

Recommendations of Committee, 1777.

In Committee,

Recommended by this Committee that no Shallops or other River Craft be permitted to depart this Port having on Board Provisions or Merchandize, without a permit sign'd by some Person appointed for that purpose.

That the Honble Board of War be requested to appoint a Commissary to purchase for the use of the inhabitants ——— Barrels of Flour for the City, which stock shall be constantly kept up.

And that we think it necessary that proper persons be appointed to Assize all the Bread Bak'd in this City for Sale. And that a Person be appoint'd to see the Same put into execution.

April 23, 1777.

Resolution of Congress. 1777.

In Congress, April 24, 1777.

Resolved, That it be earnestly recommended to the President of the Supreme Executive Council and the Board of War of Pensylvania, to call out three thousand of the Militia of the said State (exclusive of the City Militia,) one half of the said troops to rendezvous at Chester, on the Delaware, and the other half at Bristol; and to order the city Militia to equip themselves with arms and accoutrements and to hold themselves in readiness at a moments warning:

and that the said President and Board of War take measures to furnish the said troops with a proper train of artillery.

Extract from the minutes
CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'ry.

Governor Livingston to President Wharton, 1777.

Borden Town, 24th April, 1777.

Sir,

I send you David Walker & John Carson, two Scots belonging to your State, part of a Company I sent you from Haddonfield, but apprehended in a different part of this State, & carried to Philadelphia since. It seems they were sent hither from Philadelphia by mistake with a number of Prisoners there confined belonging to New Jersey. The company these prisoners belonged to were attempting to go to New York, & from there, as they pretend, to Scotland; & were apprehended near Egg Harbour. I am with great Respect,

Sir,

your most humble Serv't,
WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Directed.
To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq'r, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia.

Favored by Capt Vandike.

Col. Abm. Labar to Board of War, 1777.

Easton, April 25th, 1777.

Gent^n,

I have sent down the Bearer, Lieut Deighman, with a Pay Roll for the Guard keept at the Ferry here, and a Provision Return drawn up according to the Order of your Board of the 8th Instant, which I hope will be allowed and the Bearer discharged as soon as possible. I have continued the said Guard until further Orders from you. I am now promoted to the Rank of Colonel of the 5th Battalion, but if you chuse to continue the Command of the said Guard to me I am willing to serve; or otherwise to give it to another Officer as you shall see cause.

Sometime ago by Order of Col^n Irvine, I collected some Water

Craft on the Jersey side and put them under the care of Mr. Thomas Craig, at Durham Ferry. Mr. Craig lately acquainted me that a certain Joseph Dunlap and Christopher Tinsman, who live in Jersey, came over & took away a Flat he had in his care; and that a certain John Dunlap, who also lives on the Jersey side, threatened to shoot said Craig if he would offer to take away any of this Crafts. You can make enquiry in this affair and give such Orders therein as you shall see meet. I remain,

Gent'n, with regard,
your most Obed't Serv't,
ABR. LABAR, Colo.

Honble Board of War.

Directed,
To The Honble Board of War, Philadelphia.

Fav'd by Lieut. Deighman.

Orders to Lieutenants of Counties, 1777.

Sir,

Agreeable to the inclosed resolve of Congress, & with the advice of the Board of War, I have determined that the Counties of Philadelphia, Bucks, Cumberland Berks, and Northampton, send their proportion of Militia to Bristol, to form a Camp near that Burrough. The Counties of Chester, Lancaster and York, to form a Camp at or near Chester.

Your county is to furnish five hundred men to be marched with as many arms and accoutrements as can be procured in the County, immediately to Bristol—if the first class does not amount to that number, the second class also are to march.

You are to procure by purchase or otherwise, a Blanket for each man, which are to remain the property of the State. Money will be sent you for this purpose; if they cannot be purchased they must be impressed, and their value paid; this is to be done in a way that will give the lease offence.

You are to exert yourself to the utmost to comply with this order with all possible expedition, as the enemy are preparing to make an immediate attack on this State.

Directed,
To the Lieutenants of the Counties of Philad', Chester, Bucks, Lancaster, York, Northumberland, Berks & Lancaster

April 25, 1777.

JOHN KIRKBRIDE TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Bellevue, Bucks County, ½ after 8 o'Clock, 26th Apl, 1777.

Sir,

Your favour of Yesterday, I this moment had the Honr to receive by Express; And have the pleasure to Acqt your Honr that the Militia of this County is now form'd, and I expect every Hour to receive a Compleat Return from the Several Battalions of their Rank, &c., which I shall Immediately transmit, for the purpose of procur'g Commissions.

In the Intrem, I will take every possible measure to prepair the first Class to march According to Order. One Class amounts to 459, Including officers, which will make about the no demanded. I expect, as the Lott has fallen, to have a Nomr of Substitutes, to find, and Consequently a Considerable sum of money will be wanted.

If money shou'd be sent me for the payments of Blankits, I shou'd probably want £1000 for Substitutes & other Expencis, which I have, as yet, paid; and should be glad if a Trusty hand could bring it up with the Other.

I flatter myself I shall be able to get chief, if not all my proportion of Militia, at the place of Rendevous by the last of this Week; And the Honbl President may be well asur'd that no possible care or Vigilance shall, on my side, be wanting.

I am Your Honrs most respectfull
and Obedient Humbl Servt,
JO. KIRKBRIDE.

Directed,

To The Honble Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President of the State of Pennsylvania.
By Express.

JACOB MORGAN TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Reading, April 27th, 1777.

Sir,

Your Excellency's Letter of the 25th Inst., came to hand Yesterday about 6 o'Clock P. M., at Reading, where myself & Sub Lieutenants were met to receive Lists or Returns of the Inhabitants of Berks, between the Ages of 18 & 53 Years. The Number return'd is about 4,000. We immediately proceeded in dividing the same into 6 Districts, and have sent out Advertisements for the Inhabitants to meet at the most convenient places in the County, on the 5th and 6th of May next, to elect field Officers & form themselves into Companys

& Classes agreeable to Law. It would be impracticable to forward the Business sooner, as the County is so very extensive, half the Inhabitants would not have timely Notice. As for my own part, your Excellency may rest well assured I shall leave no Stone unturn'd that tends in the least to promote the good and Welfare of my Country, and the General Cause of the Independent States, wch I have really so much at Heart. Mr Read will be in Philadelphia in a few Days, & will communicate to your Excellency from me, what Hopes there is of soon making up the Quota of this County for the Camp at Bristol.

The contents of Your Excellency's Letter, &c., per Express, shall be carefully observed, and all Messages or orders at any time sent, shall be Punctually obey'd, and Strictly adher'd to.

I am, with much respect,

May it please your Excellency,

Your Excellency's most Obedt hbl. Servan,,

JACOB MORGAN.

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, junr, Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia.

(Reci'd 29th April, 1777. T. M.

JAMES READ TO SECRETARY MATLACK, 1777.

Sir,

Yesterday Evening I received the Commission of the Peace for this County, with a Dedimus; and immediately pursued measures for having a Meeting to-morrow of the Gentlemen appointed Justices. I should have set out this Day for Philadelphia, had I not thought it necessary for the Service of the Country to get them qualified without Delay.

I also received a Commission constituting me Prothonotary. I am obliged to the Honourable The Council for this Mark of their Respect: I shall in a Day or two do myself the Honour to wait upon His Excellency the President and assure him of my grateful Sense of it. Pray present my dutiful Respects to His Excellency.

I am,

Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

JAMES READ.

Reading, Berks, April 27, 1777.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Pennsylvania.

Rob. Smith to President Wharton, 1777.

April the 28th, 1777.

Sir,

I hereby inform you, that I have used all the industry in my power in forwarding the Business of the Militia of Chester County, which has been divided into Eight districts or Battalions. The Field Officers of each are Elected, & to meet this day to draw for Rank. I hope the greater Part of the Company Officers will be chosen, and the Companys Classed in about Nine days. In your Order the Number of men for this County is left Blank—the number of persons returned to me Capable of bearing Arms in this County is upwards of Five thousand. I shall do all in my power to have them in the greatest forwardness.

I have the Honour to be
with great respect,
Your most Humbl Servant,
ROBt SMITH, Lieut.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania. (recd 29 April 1777. T. M.)

Col. Jno. Armstrong to Pres't Wharton, 1777.

Carlisle, 28th April, 1777.

Sir,

I'm favour'd with yours of the 25th Instt by Express. On my way to this place I have called on Sundry Lieut's and other Gentr of influence thro' the several Countys & have good hopes that the Militia Law so obviously necessary at this juncture might soon have had its natural operation,—what effect this sudden call may have on the farther progress of the Law is yet uncertain as I presume the present Quota must go out as Volunteers.

The greatest opposition by much that I have heard to the present Governmt happens to be in this County, where temper hath had too great a lead of reason, Committees are yet kept up perhaps with a wrong design, altho' some part of their views as they tell me, are laudible, viz.: that of finishing some remains of former business—a large Committee are expected to meet here this week, which will afford me a natural opportunity, after which designed to have rode up the County—this last step cannot I fear now be waited of, altho' convinced the effects wou'd have been salutary, but shall however make use of the best substitute I can find. I have laboured with a number of individuals the first in the opposition, and think them already reduced to yield at least to the militia Law, but how far they may now avail themselves of a number being obliged to march without it, I can't yet fully say, but fondly hope that prudential

measures will carry it through. I shall now write Lt McCallister—have sent an express for Genl Potter whom I look for every day—and intend setting out for Philada as on Friday or Saturday next, except things shou'd take some unexpected turn here.

I am Sir with perfect respect

Your Excellencys Most Obed't humbl Serv't,

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Directed.—His Excellency Thos. Wharton, Junr, President of the State of Pennsa, Philadelphia.

☞ Express.

Penna. War Office to Col. Labar, 1777.

Pennsya War Office, April 29th, 1777.

Sir,

We recd yours of the 25th instt by Lieut Deighman, money being a little scarce at present obliges him to wait untill to-morrow, when we expect he will leave this. We request that you will continue to command the Guard at Easton untill otherwise ordered by this Board, or some other authority.

This will be delivered you by Mr. Hanylin who conducts two Indians to your place, you will please to employ Mr. Traxler to conduct them as far thro' the inhabitants as you may think necessary, great care should be taken that those Indians be well treated, especially at this critical time when every indulgence is necessary to be given to those people.

Directed.—To Col. Labar, April 29th, 1777.

Resolutions of Congress, 1777.

April 29.

Resolved,

That it be recommended to the several States forthwith to order the sums advanced by them for recruiting the Continental Battalions, raised by the said States, together with the names of the Officers receiving the same, to be transmitted to the Pay-Masters of such battalions, and that the said Pay-Masters be respectively required to call such Officers to account therefor, who shall produce certificates from the Muster-Master or Deputy Muster-Master General, specifying the number of non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers; and also, if Officers of the Light Horse, the number of horses and arms and equipage, belonging to their respective regiments, companies or troops, together with such other vouchers as shall be necessary to prove the sums expended for these articles, the subsistence of the troops before their joining the army, the loss of money by death or desertions of noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers before muster, or other necessary expences. And it is further

recommended to the said States, That they order the said regimental Pay-Masters to report to them the settlement of the said accounts, together with the vouchers, to be produced, when confirmed by the said States, to the Treasury Board, on adjustment of their accounts.

That it be recommended to the said States, if any of the regimental Pay-Masters shall neglect to obey their directions as aforesaid, to order their names to be transmitted to the Commander in Chief of the department, who shall thereupon remove from office such delinquent Pay-Masters, and supply their places with such others as he shall think qualified therefor.

That if any Officer shall not, within one month after application for that purpose, render such account, the regimental Pay-Master requiring the same shall make report thereof to the Commander in Chief of the department, who shall order a Court-Martial on such Officer, and also on such other Officer or Officers as shall be guilty of embezzling the public money, and, the fact being ascertained by their report, shall immediately cause him to be cashiered, and a copy of the report delivered to the regimental Pay-Master, to be transmitted to the State to which he belongs, that such State may give proper orders for compelling the delinquent Officer to account in a Court of Justice.

That duplicate accounts of all monies advanced by Congress, by General Officers and by the Pay-Master and Deputy Pay-Masters General, for recruiting Continental Battalions, be transmitted by the Treasury Board, such General Officers and Pay-Master and Deputy Pay-Masters General respectively to the Commissioners of Accounts for the army in the Northern and Middle Departments, who shall deliver the same to the respective regimental Pay-Masters, to enable them to call the Officers chargeable with such money to account in the manner before directed: And the said regimental Pay-Masters shall transmit to the respective Commissioners aforesaid, the settlement of such accounts with the vouchers, who shall report to the Treasury-Office those which are approved of by them, and shall proceed with the regimental Pay-Masters neglecting to obey their directions herein, and Officers not accounting for the monies by them received as aforesaid, in the manner proposed to be pursued by the States in the preceeding resolve.

That the General Officers, Pay-Master and Deputy Pay-Masters General respectively, be also directed to transmit to the Treasury-Office duplicate accounts of all monies advanced by them for recruiting Continental Battalions as aforesaid.

That all regimental Pay-Masters be directed to apply to the respective Commissioners for accounts of the sums advanced to their Officers as aforesaid.

That all Commissioners of claims or accounts be empowered to administer oaths or affirmations to persons examined by them in the execution of their office.

Extracts from the Minutes,
CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

Hon. Wm. Atlee to President Wharton, 1777.

Lancaster, the 29th April, 1777.

Sir,

I am honoured with a Commission from the Council reciting that a certain Joseph Richardson is imprisoned in the Gaol of this County on a charge of his having offended against the Laws of the late Government of Pennsylvania, and impowering me to enquire into the said Charge and Imprisonment, and to act therein by taking Bail for his appearance or otherwise as to me shall seem just and reasonable according to Law.

The Charge against Mr. Richardson is for counterfeiting the Bills* of Credit of Pennsylvania, an offence made Capital by the laws of the late Government—there hath no possitive or evident proof of his having counterfeited or passed such counterfeit Bills been adduced to me; but the Proclamation of the late Governor of New Jersey mentioning that the said Joseph Richardson stood charged on oath with having aided abetted and assisted a certain Samuel Ford in uttering and passing the said counterfeit Bills, and the Proclamation of the late Governor of Pennsylvania mentioning that it appears by sundry affidavits taken before one of the late Judges of New Jersey, that the said Joseph Richardson stood charged with forging and counterfeiting the said Bills of Credit & passing the same, appear to me to shew great presumption of his Guilt—and as by Law, and particularly by the Plan or Frame of Government of this Commonwealth prisoners charged with Capital offences are not bailable when the Proof is evident or presumption great, I have declined admitting him to Bail, not thinking myself justified in releasing him on those Terms under the Commission which the Council have done me the honour to intrust me with, & from a persuasion in my own mind that if I had done so I should have acted contrary to the trust reposed in me & not according to Law.

I shall be most happy in the Council's approbation of my Conduct, and always so in executing their commands to the best of my Judgment.

Mr. Richardson's Brother waits for this, he seems very anxious for his Trial or releasemenent on Bail, and I should have been glad if consistent with what I thought my duty, I could have indulged him.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

WILLIm ATLEE.

Directed,

To the Honourable Thomas Wharton, junior, Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

☞ Mr. Wm. Richardson, rec'd May 6, 1777.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. X. p. 99, & Vol. XI. p. 216. Arch. Vol. IV. p. 466 & 256 of this.

Resolutions of Congress, 1777,

In Congress, 29th April, 1777.

A Letter of 26 from Governor Johnson of Maryland, inclosing a copy of a letter from the said governor to James Nicholson captain of the Virginia, and of Captain Nicholson's answer being received was read.

Ordered, That the same be referred to the marine committee.

Resolved, That the said Committee be directed to order Capt. Nicholson to dismiss all the men he hath impressed, and not to depart with the frigate till farther orders.

May 1st, 1777.

Congress took into consideration the letter of the 26th of last month, from Gov'r. Johnson, the copy of the said Governor's letter to Capt. James Nicholson, and Capt. Nicholson's answer, whereupon.

Resolved, That this Congress will never countenance or support any continental officer in violating the laws of any State, or treating its magistrates with contempt:

That Capt. James Nicholson be suspended from all command in the service of the United States, until he shall have made such satisfaction as shall be accepted by the executive powers of the State of Maryland for the disrespectful and contemptuous letter written by him to the governor of that State.

Resolved, That Capt. James Nicholson be served with a copy of the aforesaid resolutions and that, in case he shall not within five days after he hath been Served with the said copy, make the Satisfaction required, he be dismissed from his command from the service of the United States.

Extract from the minutes

CHAS. THOMSON, Sec.

Endorsement

1779 February 28th, rec'd from Congress their proceedings in the cases of Gen. Maxwell, Colonel Carrington and Captain Nicholson.

Board of War to Capt. Griffith, 1777.

Pennsylvania War Office, 30th April, 1777.

Sir,

We are informed that you have inlisted an indented servant boy belonging to Mr. John Biddle, for the ninth Virginia Regiment, as the Hon'ble Continental Congress have directed the quotas which shall be raised by each State, and as it would be extremely oppressive

and unjust should the servants be taken from the inhabitants of one state to make up the quotas of another state, we therefore cannot countenance a proceeding which is evidently injurious to the public good we would therefore recommend it to you to discharge the said boy & deliver him again to his master again, by order of the board.

Y^r very hble Servt

Capt. Griffith of the 9th Virg^a Regiment.

Directed,

To Capt. Griffith, April 30th 1777.

Gov. Livingston to Pres. Wharton, 1777.

Borden Town, 1 May, 1777.

Sir,

I send you one Lawrence Johnston & Thomas Coheen, both of your State. They were taken within about three miles from the Enemy's Lines at Brunswick, on their Journey to join the British Troops, & sent by Major Scudder to General Putnam; and by the latter to our Council of Safety here. Johnston appears to be an impudent determined villain, and is undoubtedly in the service of the Enemy. We can draw no confession from him, & he had so influenced Coheen who appears to be a simple ignorant youth, to deny every thing concerning the real intention of their journey, that on his first examination, he would give us no information about it, but on our promise to intercede with your State for his release after your examination of him, on condition of his making a frank confession of Johnstons design, he owned that Johnston had told him that he had been at Brunswick with the Enemy; and that he proposed to him (Coheen) to take him to Brunswick & New York where he would find Employ as a carpenter, that Coheen's father was privy to their design. That they crossed the Delaware near Pennsbury in the evening in a craft they took without Leave, for that purpose, & travelled in the night. That they endeavoured to avoid our Guards which obliged them to go by night & by an unusual route.

Tho' the young man is very backward in declaring the Truth for fear of being the instrument of affecting Johnston's Life, & his not being convinced but that it will endanger his own, yet I am persuaded that when he receives full assurance from your State of being set at Liberty upon giving security to appear as a witness against Johnston on his trial, he will make more ample discoveries.

Johnston denies almost every particular which he confessed before Major Scudder. I enclose you the Major's Letter, & also the affidavit of William Butler Lynch, who has also been with the Enemy,

& will probably be found at Allen Town when you want him as a witness.

I am,
with great Respect,
Sir,
Your most humble Servt
WIL. LIVINGSTON.

P.S. Upon examining the prisoners separately, you will find Johnston one of the greatest Liars you ever met with. Pray let him have no conversation with Coheen, nor be present at his examination, as the young man will be intimidated by his looks.

We stand engaged to Coheen to intercede with your State for his Pardon.

Directed,

To his excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr., President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia,

With Lawrence Johnston & Thomas Coheen as prisoners.

Richard McCalester to President Wharton, 1777,

York Town, May 1st, 1777.

Sir:

I Recd your orders in this place this day, the Express I have not seen.

We are just finishing the dividing the County into Districts, and shall not loss one Hour that can be applied in forming the Militia, According to the law provided.

How the Quota will be raised before the law is got in force is a matter I am at a loss to know.

Our Election comes on in a few days, which I shall attend and use all my influence, nothing shall be wanting that I am capable of.

The Militia of this County have not met of late, nor will be possible to bring them together before the Elections of Chuseing there offesers, at which time I shall do every thing in my power to Raise the Quota of Volunteers, as also to fulfill your other orders.

Perhaps Sir you may think I have not attended to Regulating the Militia, but do assure you Since I recd my comishion have not lost

one hour, nor will I until the matter is completed, should it be in my power.

I am S^r, w^h Due Regard,
Your Much obl^d & most
ob^t Hubl S^t,
RICHD McCALESTER.

Directed,

To His Honr. Thomas Wharton, Esqr., President of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Lieutenant Kirkbride to President Wharton, 1777.

Sir:

By Col. Lacey you will receive this, With a Return of the Officers of Bucks County, &c., for Whome I should be glad to receive Commitions. There is a Majority Vacant in the first Battalion as well as a Cap^cy, two Liecu^ts, & an Ensigncy in the second, and the same in the 4th Battalion, Which if the President saw proper, he mite send Blank Commitions for, as it woud save trouble, and I wou'd return the names as soon as they cou'd be properly Chosen or appointed, which from some difference among the People hath not as yet been accomplish'd.

I have, S^r, with the assistance of my Brother Sub Lieu^ts, done every thing in my power to forward the Melitia, and hope by Monday next to have a Considerable part of them at Bristol, and as soon as possible the Remainder shall follow.

Our greatest difficulty lays in procuring Substitutes, and as the Lott has fallen on a number of that order of people who will not take an active part, I shall want at least £1500 for that purpose, besides what may be necessary for the purchase of Blankits, &c.

If S^r it shou'd be Consistent with your Judgment, shou'd be glad you wou'd give an Order on the State Treasurer in favour of Colo. Lacy, for the above, or such other sum as you may think proper, as it will be much wanted, and we have as yet, advanc'd the money that has been necessary.

The people we Expect'd wou'd have offer'd as Substitutes, we find have great Expectations of a Large Bounty, therefore I have not as yet offer'd any Certain Sum—but have thought not to exceed 20 dollars—Except in case of the most Urgent Necessity, lest it mite Impead the raising of the Continental Troops. But I shou'd be very happy to have the advice of the Hon^l President on that head.

I am, Sir, your most Respectful and Obedient
Hum. Servt,
J. KIRKBRIDE, Lieut of B. C.

Directed.

To The Hon'bl Thomas Wharton, Esq'r, President of the State of Pensylvania.

Robert Levers to Timothy Matlack, 1777.

Easton, May 6th, 1777.

Sir,

I had the Honor to receive your Favor this day, at Easton, in my Way to Camp.

The 26th February last I left Col. Cooke's Regiment, after paying the Troops present to the 1st February; and that with the moneys belonging to some of the officers in the Regiment with which they had entrusted me, as is particularly set forth in a Remonstrance presented by me to Congress; to which Remonstrance, I begged leave to refer His Excellency President Wharton, when I had the Honor to meet him on the Road near Philadelphia, and when His Excellency mentioned Col. Cooke's Letter.

As soon as I had the Honor to be appointed to the Prothonotaryship of this County, I waited on the Board of War, and desired Mr. Samuel Morris to acquaint the Board of this appointment, and that I thought it my duty to resign the Post of Paymaster. During my application for the Prothonotaryship & afterwards, I was preparing my Abstract Pay Roll to the 1st February to be laid before General Gates, and as Col. Gray & several of the officers were of opinion when I left Camp, that as the Troops were paid to the 1st February so late in that month, I had better include February & March together, and so pay off the Troops for the Two months at once. The Beginning of April I was preparing in Philad^a for Camp, without having then settled or received the money to enable me to repay the officers the moneys I had received from them, when Mr. Thomas Dungan called on me in Philadelphia, and acquainted me he was appointed Paymaster of Col. Cooke's Regiment. Mr. Dungan told me he should set off for the Regiment in a few days, and I expected then to follow him quickly, not doubting but I should receive an Order from Genl Gates to receive the Ball. due to the 1st February to the Regiment as stated in my Abstract Pay Roll—To which 1st February I conceived it to be my duty to settle all accounts with the Regiment, and had no doubt but as Mr. Dungan woud arrive at Camp the beginning of April, that Gentleman woud draw for the Troops for the months of February & March.

Altho when I returned from Camp the 1st March, I found my House as it were an Hospital, my Family being sick, I staid but six days at home, before I came to Philadelphia, where I remained till the Congress gave me an Order for some moneys, agreeable to the Request set forth in my Remonstrance. The duty of my new appointment I apprehended called on me to wait on Mr. Gordon, at Easton, in my Way home to see my Wife, who whilst I was here was brought to Bed and was very ill, which occasioned me to make

a short & expeditious Journey to Philadelphia, from whence I was returning when I had the Honor to meet the President.

I am now going to Morris Town to wait on His Excellency General Washington, to have my Pay Abstract compleated to 1st February, from thence I shall wait on Col. Cooke, repay the moneys advanced to me by the officers as soon as I receive them, make a final Settlement with the Regiment, and then lay before the Council a State of my Accounts, which I am persuaded will be perfectly satisfactory.

I have the Honor to be with great Respect and Esteem,

Sir,

your most obedient,

very humble Servant,

ROBERT LEVERS.

PRESIDENT WHARTON TO RICHARD MCALLISTER, 1777.

May 7, 1777.

Richard M'Allister, Esq.,
Lieut. York County.

Sir,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your favor, dated 1st. inst., which came to hand yesterday, by which I find you were Dividing the County into districts. I have not the least doubt of your having exerted yourself to effect the business for which you were appointed; and it will afford me pleasure to hear that a Judicious Choice of officers is made in your County; a return of their names you will please to make to me as soon as possible, in order that the Commisions may be sent to you to be delivered.

I apprehend from a paragraph in your Letter, that you have by some means mistook what I wrote to you respecting your Quota for the Camp; my intention was, that they should be brought out under the Militia Law, and not as Volunteers; for I am apprehensive that any other plea than that, will by no means answer the good purpose intended—but very probably lead to Confusion.

The Enemy's real intentions we are yet Ignorant of; if they should be to invade this State, which is the opinion of many, I have no doubt, from the Strength of our army under Gen. Washington, together with the assistance of our Militia & that of the Neighbouring States, we shall make them sorely repent such a step. As soon as I receive any certain intelligence of their movements, you shall be made acquainted with it; in the mean time, I must request you to continue to exert yourself to carry the Militia Law into execution & when effected, cause draughts to be made for your Quota.

I remain, with respect, Sir,

your very Hum. Servt.

President Wharton to James Gregory, 1777.

May 7, 1777.

James Gregory, Esq.;
Sub Lieut. Cum. Coun.

James Galbraith, Esq., was, by the Hon[l] House of Assembly, appointed Lieu. of your County; but from his advan'd age & Infirmities of body, it is out of his power to serve his Country in that station; he has, nevertheless, given Notice to the Sub Lieu. to meet at Carlisle, who, I have no doubt, are exerting themselves to carry the Militia Law into execution, in order that draughts may be made for your Quota, for the intended Camp at Bristol. I am apprehensive that if the People at this time are called out in any other way than under the Militia Law, it will not answer any good purpose, but very probably tend to confusion.

Directed,

To Coll. Gregory.

Treasury of United States to President Wharton, 1777.

Treasury Office,
Philadelp[a], May 8th, 1777.

Sir,

I have the Honor to inclose you several Copies of a Resolve of Congress, passed the 29th of April, 1777, which I am directed to do by the Honorable, the Board of Treasury; and the Board request that a strict Attention may be had to the several Matters therein recommended to the States. An order, they hope, will be immediately issued for an account of the Sums advanced by your State for the recruiting Service, and the Names of the Officers to whom they were advanced; to be immediatelly transmitted to the Paymasters of the several Battallions in which they serve, and that due Care will be taken that the Regimental Paymasters make their Report to you of the Settlement of those Accounts, together with the Vouchers, to be produced when approved of by your State, to the Treasury Board, on Adjustment of their Accounts. If any of the Regimental Paymasters refuse or neglect to obey the Directions of the Resolve, their Names are to be transmitted to the Commander in Chief of the Department in which they may happen to be, in order to have the Delinquents removed, according to the Directions of Congress.

I have the Honor to be
Your Excellency's most obedient
and Very hble. Serv[t],
JOHN GIBSON, Aud[r] Genl.

Directed,

His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, jun[r], Esquire.

AN ACCOUNT OF CASH PAID FOR RECRUITING SERVICE OF THE TWELVE PENNSYLVANIA REGIMENTS, &C., VIZ.:

Colonel Edward Hand,	1st P. R.	£ 75	
Col. James Chambers,	" "	750	£ 825
Col. Philip DeHaas,	2nd "		462 10
Col. Joseph Wood,	3 "		2812 10
Lieu^t Col. Wm Butler,	4 "		7050
Col. Anthony Wayne,	5	1050	
Col. Francis Johnston,	"	937 10	1987 10
Lieu^t Col. Henry Becker,	6 "		5812 10
Lieu^t Col. Thomas Hartley,	7 "	3000	
Lieu^t Col. David Greer,	"	4593 15	7593 15
Col. Eneas McCoy,	8 "		3000
Col. James Irvine,	9 "	4425	
Lieu^t Col. Geo. Nagel,	"	1337 10	
Captain Fra^s Nichols,	"	262 10	6025
Col. Joseph Penrose,	10 "	5475	
Lieu^t Col. Ad^m Hubley,	"	937 10	
Captain Geo. Calhoon,	"	75	6487 10
Col. Richd Hampton,	11 "		6712 10
Col. William Cook,	12 "		8250
Col. Nich^s Hansegger, Germ^n Batt^n,			825
Lieu^t Robert Allison,			37 10
Captain Alex^r Ramsay,			112 10
			£57993 15

R. M'CALESTER TO PRES. WHARTON, 1777.

Hanover, 12th of May, 1777.

S^r,

Yours of the 7th I this moment Rec^d. I am just seting out to one of the Elections—as soon as they are all over Shall Com Down, or send the Returns to you.

Shall write you shortly Respecting the Choice that will be made. Indeed, am shure there must be many Chosen who will be verrey unfit for the Task; the County being, the Gratest Part, composed of Garmans, and many of them Verrey Ignorant.

However, we shall indeavor to make as Good a Choice as possible. I am Doing Every thing in my Power, & beg leve to subscribe myself y^r,

Most ob^t,

Hu^ble Servant,

RICH'D. M'CALESTER.

Directed,

To His Hon^e Thos Wharton, Esqr., President of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO JAMES YOUNG, 1777.

Sir,

By order of his Excellency the President, I have enclosed you such part of the examination of James Molesworth as relates to M^rs O'Brien and M^rs McKay.* His excellency requests you will take such assistance as you may think proper, and examine those two women, and thereupon do what you may judge to be right and according to law, either by remanding them to prison or taking bail for their appearance, &c.

with great respect I have the honor to be,

your most obedient hum^ble servant,

T^y MATLACK, Sec^y.

May 9, 1777.

(Papers Sent.)

Examination of a Board of 27 March, 1777. Page 1 to page 17.

Certificates of John Eldridge, Andreas Higgins, & John Snider. Page 1 & 2.

Col^l Proctor & Col^l Stewart, report of the confession of Molesworth after his condemnation. 2 pages & a half.

Directed,

To Honble James Young, Esqr.

* See pages 270—282.

JAMES YOUNG TO TIM'Y MATLACK, 1777.

Sir,

Agreeable to his Excellency the President's directions, which you transmitted to me the 9th Inst., I, this day, with the assistance of John Moor and Daniel Clymer, Esq^rs, Examined Mrs Obrian & M^rs McCay, whose examinations I hereby inclose with those you sent to me. M^rs McCay's Confession is full; she comes under the Treason Act, & although there is not sufficient & legal testimony against Mrs Obrian, it appears she is a very Dangerous Person, and ought to remain in Custody from the present situation of our Publick affairs. Those gentlemen agree with me in the above sentiment. I have therefore remanded both the Women to the State Prison.

being very respectfully, Sir,

your most Obed^t Humble Servt,

JA'S YOUNG.

Philad^a, 13th May, 1777.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esqr. Present.

EXAMINATION OF MRS. ABIGAIL MCCAY.

Taken May 13, 1777, Before James Young, Esquire, & John Moore and Daniel Clymer.

About the beginning of March last, she waited on Mrs. Sarah O'Brien, who told her that a Captain of a man o' War had lately slept at her House who informed her that Pilots were wanted to bring the English Fleet round to Philadelphia; asked this Examinant whether she knew any Pilots she could trust with the Affair—Examinant said she knew Nathan Church, who Examinant spoke to. Mrs. O'Brian told Examinant that the best way for the Pilots to go off to the Fleet would be to purchase an Oyster Boat and go to the Capes, and there be taken. Nathan Church was told by Examinant that the above was Mrs. O'Brian's Scheme for transporting them to New York. Mrs. O'Brian told Examinant the next day that she had conversed with Church about going to New York, and Church seem'd to agree to the Affair. A few days after James Molesworth called in the Evening at Examinant's House, and asked her for her Brother; inform'd him that her Brother had gone to Chester to pilot a vessel down the River. He told her he would give twenty pounds to see her Brother; she asked him for what; he told her (first asking

* See pages 275, 277, 278.

her whether Mrs. O'Brian had not spoken to her about Pilots, she answering yes,) that he wanted her Brother to pilot round the Fleet from New York to Philadelphia, on which Examinant inform'd him she was sure her Brother would not do any such thing; asked her whether any Pilots lodg'd at Mrs. O'Brian's; Examinant said Pilots did lodge there, and Mrs. O'Brian told Examinant next day that James Molesworth had been there the Evening before, and waited there for the Pilots untill 10 o'clock in the Night. Mrs. O'Brian on the same day, came to Examinant's House with Andrew Higgins and John Eldridge, two Pilots, & called Examinant into the front Parlour, leaving the Pilots alone in the back Parlour, and asked her whether Molesworth had not spoke to her. Examinant answered yes, and she informed Examinant that on Molesworth hesitating about trusting Examinant, she said he might safely trust her, for that she had spoke to her about the Affair. Mrs. O'Brian then went into the back Parlour to Mr. Higgons, and Examinant called Eldridge into the front Parlour, to talk with each of them on the Subject. On Examinant's proposing the Scheme of going to New York to pilot round the fleet, to Eldridge he absolutely refused to go, and afterwards refused to go in the presence of Mrs. O'Brian. Mrs. O'Brian told Examinant that she had hinted the above scheme to Higgins, and she believed he would go. The two Pilots went from Examinant's House together with Mrs. O'Brian, and Mrs. O'Bryan afterwards inform'd Examinant that she had taken Eldridge to James Molesworth's Lodgings, and had heard Eldridge say that he had refused Molesworth's request with respect to piloting the fleet round to Philad^a, and Mrs. O'Bryan beg'd Examinant to desire Eldridge not to discover the Affair; she informed Mrs O'Brian that she wou'd speak to him. Mrs. O'Bryan then desired her to speak to Higgins on the subject, as she (Mrs. O'Bryan) believed he wou'd go to New York. This Examinant accordingly spoke to Higgins, who agreed to go, and said he cou'd get a Cheveaux du frize Pilot also to go, & being asked who he was, he made answer John Schnyder, and brought him to Examinant's House; and Schnyder agreed to go to New York & pilot round the English fleet, & asked Examinant when they should see the Person who was to employ them, she informed him that Evening. That Afternoon Mr. Molesworth and Mrs. O'Bryan came to the Examinant's House at different Times, and she asked Examinant whether she had spoke to Higgins; she told her she had, and that he with Schnyder, a Cheveaux du frize Pilot, had agreed to go to New York for the above Purpose. Mrs. O'Bryan called in Molesworth & informed him that Mrs. Coy had spoke to Schnyder and Higgins, and they had both agreed to go to New York and pilot round the Fleet to Philad^a. Molesworth and Mrs. O'Bryan went away from Examinant's House together, and Schnyder & Higgins came there in the Afternoon, and Molesworth and Mrs. O'Bryan also came there at

different Times. On the Evening of the same day, Molesworth (Mrs. O'Bryan not then being in the House,) asked whether those two men were the men he wanted to speak to; Examinant answered yes. Molesworth then went into a room with Schnyder & Higgins. She overheard Molesworth say as he was going out of the Door that he wou'd consult his Partner, (who this Partner was she knows not.) He then went out and return'd again, and she saw Molesworth give Schnyder money, who said he was going to give it to his mother; and heard Schnyder ask Molesworth whether they should find him there, (meaning Mrs. McCoy's House); he answered they shou'd find him at his lodgings at Mrs. Yarnall's in Chestnut Street. And Examinant further saith that on Mrs. O'Bryan's being taken up, she (Mrs. O'Bryan) advised Examinant on her Examination to tell as little Truth as possible, and then they cannot hurt you. She told Examinant that she, Mrs. O'Bryan should do very well were it not for Eldridge.

her
ABIGAIL ⋈ McCOY.
mark.

This Examination taken before us the day and year first within written.

JAS. YOUNG,
JOHN MOOR,
DANL. CLYMER.

Examination of Sarah O'Bryan, 1777.

Mrs. Bryan being called in, closely adheres to her Examination taken before the Board of War, excepting in these Points, that on Friday, in the Afternoon, before Molesworth was apprehended, as she was returning from the Dutch market, she call'd at Joseph Thomas's, in Front Street, who informed her that two young men had lately come from Camp, who offered to give one hundred Guineas to any Pilot who wou'd bring round the English fleet from New York to Philada. He ask'd her whether there were not Pilots at her House, and whether she could not get any for the above Purpose; she said she would not, for the English would as soon blow down her House as another's. She immediately on going home, said before a Number of People in her House, among whom was Nehemiah Maul, (Pilot) that the English wanted Pilots to bring them round to Philada. Maul made answer that he would not Pilot them round for Nine thousand Guineas. And Higgins, the Pilot, being also present, dam'd his soul if he would not pilot them round for fifty Guineas. Joseph Thomas also said to her loud at

his front door, let them take Care that their Guns are not spiked up at the fort.

SARAH O'BRYAN.*

Examined before us, May 18, 1777.

JAS. YOUNG,
JOHN MOOR,
DANL. CLYMER.

Resolutions of Committee of Cumberland Co., 1777.

At a meeting of the County Committee of Cumberland held at Shippensburgh the 15th May, 1777.

Resolved that all Apprentices and servants are the Property of their masters and mistresses, and every mode of depriving such masters and mistresses of their Property is a Violation of the Rights of mankind, contrary to the Constitution and Laws of this State, the Resolves of the Honorable the Continental Congress, and an offence against the Peace of the good People of this State, except the consent of the masters and mistresses, in their proper persons, or by their Representatives in Genl. Assembly met, shall be first had and obtained.

Resolved, that every Officer, non commissioned Officer, & soldier, or other Person, who hath inlisted any Servant, or apprentice the Property of any Inhabitant of this County, do return all such enlisted Servants and Apprentices to their proper Owners (on application made to them for that Purpose), such servant and apprentices to continue with their respective owners, untill the mind of the Legislature of this State shall be made known, by their Act touching the Premises; And it is hereby recommended to the Free men of this County to aid and assist all injured Persons to apprehend such Servants and apprentices so inlisted, and deliver them to their owners, and also to take the Person, or Persons, who have inlisted them, or who shall refuse to deliver them to their owners, or who shall hereafter inlist any servant or apprentice, & bring them before the next justice of the Peace, or the next Township Committee (where there is not a justice), Who are hereby requested to commit them to the Prison of this County, untill they shall cause such servant or apprentice to be delivered to the owner, and give good free hold security for their own good Behaviour in future, or untill the mind of the Legislature of this state, shall be declared, by their Act, touching the Premises.

* See page 277.

Col. Jacob Morgan, to Pres. Wharton, 1777.

Reading, May 16th, 1777.

Sir,

Inclosed have sent an Exact list of the Field Officers, Captains, Subalterns and Court martial men of the Six Battalions of the Berks County militia, as they were divided & Sub divided agreeable to the militia act, Eighteen of which sub divisions did not attend to choose their officers, which the Lieutenants took on them to do, they are those in said list, marked in the margin with N. B. &c.

In the 4th Battalion in said List Nicholas Luby, late Lieut. Col., in the Flying Camp & Peter Decker a Captain were chosen as Field Officers in said Battalion, Those Gentlemen were taken prisoners on York Island the former is now on parole, and the latter as its said made his escape.

The Commissioners appointed for Collecting Blankets met here and issued orders for Collecting the Quantity allotted in this County for the Continental Service, and 300 for the Berk militia.

I have made strict enquiry about arms, and find about 150 with accoutrements may be procured in Reading, which may be made fit for service in a fortnight, as to Drums Coulors and Fifes, none are yet Collected, but have this day sent notices for the same as well as arms, &c., to be brought in, in order to be got in immediate repair.

Myself and Bretheren have this Day made a moderate Estimate of the money necessary for purchasing Blankets, &c., and Carrying into Execution the militia Law with the utmost expedition, and are of opinion that three thousand two hundred Dollars ought to be immediately remitted for said purpose, as we have engaged by written orders sent out to pay the money for all those brought in against the 24th Instant.

I am with great
Respect your Excellency's
most obed^t Humble Servant.

JACOB MORGAN.*

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton Esq., President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI, p. 208.

SAM'L WETHERILL, JR., TO THE BOARD OF WAR, 1777

Philadelphia. 5m° 16, 1777.

The Honourable the board of War for Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen,

When I agreed with you sometime ago to make you some Cloth, the price of wool & workmanship was then so high that I did not expect it would raise, the probability of it did not then occur, tho immediately after they began to raise, and have gradually risen to such an extravagant highth that I find it impossible to comply with my engagement. Such Cloth as I then intended to make you for 20*s.* ℔yd., cannot now be made for less than 27*s.* 6*d.*, tho as I then had purchased some wool at a lower rate than it now sells currently for I am willing that you should have a quantity at 25*s.*, I have now some pieces finisht, such as the two pieces which I delivered you, those you may have at the same rate which you had them for, to wit, 18*s.* ℔yd., tho it is much below what such goods ought to fetch at the rate things in general sell, I expect in all engagements, exceptions are implyed, & believe you have more honour than to desire I should hurt myself to serve the Public, I should be glad to be informed whether you are willing to give such a Price for Cloth as may induce me to purchase any extraordinary quantity of Wool at the Price it may sell for, it is now 7*s.* 6*d.* ℔ lb., and I expect will soon be 10*s.*

From your Friend,

SAM'L. WETHERILL, Jr.*

COL. JO. KIRKBRIDE TO PRES'T WHARTON, 1777.

Sir,

I beg leave to acquaint your Excelency, that I have done (with the assistance of my Broth's Sub. Lieut^n,) every thing in my power towards the araingment of the Militia of this County, and preparing them for service. I have now about one half of our Quota of men at Hed qr^s near Bristol—all furnished with Blankits, but are yet defitient in armes, &c. Which is partly owing to the want of Cash to procure them.

We have been under the Disagreeable Necessity of finding a great No. of Substitutes—and have yet many more to procure, before we can Compleat our Quota.

As Our money is quite run out, I am under the Necessity of beging your Excelency will give an Order in favour of Col. Lacey

* See page 355.

for such further sum of money as may be wanted, to fully aquip the Militia for duty.

I Expect one-half of our Quota will be made up with Substitutes, which at least will take £1500 more—Our Quota of Blankits (which I expect is nearly rais'd and Lodg'd at Newton) will amount to between 5 & £600—the Blankits for the first Class of Militia—about as much—besides the money which is wanted to purchase armes &c. —which at least will require £500 more.

This Draught may seem very Extrodenary, but do asúre your Excelency it will not be a farthing more than will be absolutely necessary, And when the Guns, Blankits, &c. is once had, I hope they will be taken proper Care of, to be of Use an Other day.

I am with the utmost respect
your Excelency's most Obedient
& Very Hum^l Servt,
JO. KIRKBRIDE.*

Bellevue, Bucks County, 18th of May, 1777.

Directed,

To His Excelency Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Favour'd by
Col. Lacey.

Bartram Galbraith to President Wharton, 1777.

Donegal, May 19th, 1777.

May it please your Excelleney,

Sir,

By this I'm to enform you that I have hitherto lost no time in endavouring to embody the Militia of this County, since my appointment, but find it an arduous task—I have got Six Battalions out of Nine formed, the three yet to form, are in the heart of the Mininists Settlements in our County, who pamper with the Constables & prevent them of making their Returns, by which I'm rendered unable to do any thing with them; I have heard it reported that they mean to withstand the measures, but as our Magistrates have been lately Qualified into Office hope to see matters have a different Complection.

Should they withstand the Measures, would be glad of some Instructions from your Excellency how to Proceed. Our Treasurers have refused answering any Draughts as directed by the Militia Act—I have given orders for the Quota of Men demanded from this County to March this week (from the Battalions formed) but as yet

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 208.

have not received an acc^t from the different Colonels what arms & accoutriments may be wanting,* yet I hope by the time the first division marches, I shall be able to give an account that your Excellency may order them Equipt at Chester. If your Curiosity should lead you to enquire farther into the State of this County, I refer you to Col^l Lawry who will be with you & can inform you particularly.

I have the honour to be your
Excellencys most Obedient
Humble Serv't,
BARTREM GALBRAITH.

Directed.
To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jun^r, Esqr, Philadelphia.

Archibald Lochry to President Wharton, 1777.

Westmoreland, ye 20th May, 1777.

Honnored Sir,

On my arrival On the forth of April I found this County In a Confused situation. The Alarm of Simpsons Being Kill'd and Moorhead Being Missing Struck such Terror On the Minds of the People that the fruntears Waire Entirely fleed Into the Hart of the Settlement and a greate Numbers Over the Mountains. In Order to Put a stop to the Peopels Entirely Evacuating the Cuntery I Ventured to Raise Sixty Men and Stationed them On the frontears Between twolicks and the Mouth of Kiskamenitus In fore Divitions under the Command of Two Captains and Two Lieut^s, Which Covered that frunteir so Well that the People are In general Gon Back to their Plantations and fell to their Leabours. I flatter Myself When your Excellency Is Enform^d What Bennifit these Raingers Hass Been to this Destres^t fruntier, you Will Not Hesitate One Moment In Allowing them to Be Paid By the State—they are Engag'd for two Months if Not sooner Discharg^d By Bregedear Genneral Hands Order and Promised the same Pay and Rations of Continantal Troops. Which if your Excellancy Will Please to Alow the favour Will Be Ecknowledged By the fruntears In general and In Perticular.

By your Excellancys most Obed'nt
Humb^l Serv't,
A. LOCHRY.

Directed,
To His Excellancy Thos Wharton, Jun., Esqr, President of the Supraim Executive Counsel of State of Pensylvania.
Favour'd By Col^l
John Proctor.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 212.

Col. Brodhead to Board of War, 1777.

Summerset Court House, May 20th, 1777.

Sir,

I am Honoured with your favour of the twelfth instant, and am happy in the assurance you give me of having my Regt. Cloathed.

The men were, previous to my appointment, furnisht with more Cloathing than I knew of, when I wrote you, and no Stoppages have been made for those Cloathing, because Mr. Mease had not informed the officers what the Prices were.

If I am rightly instructed, the men are by Resolve of Congress entitled to a Bounty of a suit of Cloathing each, and stoppages shall be made out of their pay for those they have had.

I would with tha greatest cheerfulness send you a Return of the officers of my Regt. as it now stands, with the names of worthy Gentlemen to fill the vacancies, but his Excellency Genl. Washington having been wrote to by Genl. Lincoln, on account of the scarcity of officers to do the duty of the Regt. hath commanded me to send him a list of the vacancies and officers in order that he might issue their new appointments in the Regimental Line, and condemned a Proposition for filling the vacancies with more worthy men. If, therefore, your Honble Board was to proceed to the appointment of new officers, such as I could undertake to recommend, your appointments would certainly interfere with those made in the Regimental line by his Excellency. I wish his Excellency had not been wrote to on the occasion, and will write you as soon as I am informed what hath been done by the General.

If it will give you any satisfaction I will on the first notice send you a list of the officers.

I am with due Respect & Esteem your

most obedt Servt,

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

Directed,

To Richard Bache, Esqr., Chairman of the Honble Board of War Philadelphia.

℘ Favr Captn Hoffnagle.

Navy Board to Board of War of Pennsylvania, 1777

Navy Board, May 20, 1777.

Gent^m.,

In consequence of a Resolve of Congress, we were directed to forward Six Guns to Cape May in the Jerseys, to be stationed there for the protection of our vessels, &c., that may put in or run ashore in or near said District. As it is requisite this matter should be immediately attended to, we wish you would lend us 4 Four Pounders ready mounted on travelling Cariages; we have three six Pounders & one four pounder which we will get mounted as soon as possible & put in the place of the four guns we ask of you. Our Expectation is to exchange these guns when the purpose for which we have borrowed them is answered, or we can supply their places at Cape May with others, and we hope we shall then receive our own guns again.

We are

Your very hble servts,

FRA. HOPKINSON,
JOHN NIXON,
JOHN WHARTON,

Directed,

To the Honourable The Board of War for the State of Pennsylvania.

Gov. Livingston to Board of War of Pennsylvania, 1777

Haddonfield, 21 May, 1777.

Sir,

The Prisoners hereafter mentioned, confined in your State Prison & Subjects of this State, were apprehended in January last, in the County of Monmouth as disaffected, & are said to have enlisted in the service of the United States, on condition of their being set at Liberty.

This State cannot set them at Liberty being confined in your prison; & it is presumed you will not desire to detain them on our application to have them before us to examine into the nature of their crimes. We therefore apply to have them delivered to the guards who will wait on you with this, & such of them as we can legally discharge, and who have inlisted in the Service, we shall take

care to deliver to the proper officer to see them join their respective Battalions,

Their names are,

JAMES ALLEN,	DAVID ROGERS,
JONAH NEWLAND,	WILLIAM NEWLAND,
BENJAMIN WOOLLEY,	JOHN SEARS,
WILLIAM PARKER,	WILLIAM TOMSON,
THOMAS PARENT,	JOHN WRIGHT,
JONATHAN BURDGE,	HENRY MINKS,
JAMES COMPTON,	STOAL HAVINS,
WILLIAM NORTH,	JOHN NORTH,

With such others as were taken by Major Mifflin.

I am

Sir,

Your most humble Svt,

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

PS. Tho' we are furnished with the above list as of persons who have inlisted, some of them have already been discharged, we therefore mean those of them who are still confined with you.

Directed,

The Honorable the Board of War for the State of Pennsylvania.

WM. HENRY & JOHN HUBLEY TO PRES'T WHARTON, 1777.

Lancaster, May 22d, 1777.

Sir,

A Petition from the Inhabitants of this Town to the Assembly and Council which comes herewith, sets forth the inconvenience this Town labours under for want of Magistrates,* and prays that a Remedy be provided to redress them, which we suppose the House will do by making a Law impowering the Council to appoint suitable Persons for that purpose. We therefore beg leave to name several of the Inhabitants here who would be suitable for that purpose, to wit: William Bausman, Michael Hubley, John Hopson and Mathias Græff, the three first named have severally for some years filled the office of Burgesses, and are acquainted with the Duties of a Justice of the Peace, and the latter we make no doubt will do Honor to such an appointment. As to the rest of the prayer of the Petition, in respect of Burgesses, Town Clerk, &c., an election for the purpose may be at the usual Time, and, the inconvenience for want of them will be remidied, should the above named Persons meet with your

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 211.

approbation in the appointment as Justices of the Peace, and the same Law can likewise provide in respect of the Prothonotary.

We have the Honor to be your Excellency's
most Obed't and very h'ble Serv'ts,
WILLIAM HENRY,
JOHN HUBLEY.

P. S.—We beg the favour of you to have the Petition presented to the House of Assembly.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, President of the State of Pennsy^a, Philadelphia.

Gov. Wm. Livingston to Board of War, 1777.

Haddonfield, 22 May, 1777.

Sir,

Messrs. Stocom & Parker will wait on you with this. The former is owner of a negro slave called Joe, & the latter of a negro called Scipio. Both of the slaves were some time since taken up by our Militia officers in the County of Monmouth on Suspicion of intending to join the Enemy, & were among a number of other Prisoners hurried to your Jail in Philadelphia. On Examination of the matter by the Governor and Council of Safety of this State, it appears that the suspicions against them were not well founded, & the Board accordingly agreed to have the negroes delivered to their respective masters on their discharging the Expenses that have accrued for their support & maintenance, & giving their respective Bonds to this Government for their good Behavour in future. The latter they have complied with; and the former they promise to perform on the Receipt of their slaves. This is therefore to request you to order the Person who has them in Custody to deliver them to their masters on their paying the Expenses they have occasioned by their keeping.

I am,
Sir,
Your most humble Serv't,
WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Directed—

To Richard Bache, Esqr, Chairman of the Board of War, Philadelphia.

SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO WM BAILEY, &c., 1777.

Sir,

His Excellency the President and several members of the Council have been in the city several days but have not yet been able to make a quorum. I am therefore ordered to request that you will please to attend the Council as soon as possible. A quorum of the House of Assembly is met and now entering on business.

I have the honor to be with great respect,

your most humble servant,

T. M., Sec'ry,

Philad'a, May 22, 1777.

Directed,

To Wm. Bailey, Esq'r, Lancaster,
Eddy, Esq'r, York,
Geo. Taylor, Esq'r, Northampton,

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL TO COMMITTEE OF LANCASTER, 1777.

Philadelphia, May 22, 1777.

Sir,

The Commissary of Prisoners appointed by General Washington, has requested His Excellency the President to furnish him with an account of the expences and disbursements of this State in favour of the several prisoners taken from the King of Great Britain—and a return of such prisoners as are at present in this State, with their rank, &c. His Excellency has therefore ordered me to request that you will immediately forward to him an account of the said expences incurred in your district (p^d and unpaid) with the several proper authenticated Vouchers for the same—and a list of such prisoners as are now under your care. I have the honor to be with the greatest respect,

your most obedient humble servant,

T. M.

Directed,

To the Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee of Lancaster.

JONATHAN POTTS TO BOARD OF WAR OF PENNSYLVANIA, 1777.

Dear Sir,

A good opportunity offering, which seldom is the Case, I embrace it to give you some acco^t of our situation. I returned to this place yesterday from Ty^l. Our Garrison at that post is daily increasing, it now consists of 3,400 men, and there are 1500 Militia from New Hamshire & Berkshire on their march. By a Prisoner taken 16 miles below Onion River, a New Hamshire Grant man, who deserted last year & has been with the Enemy all Winter, & who was sent out to gain Intelligence by General Philips, who commands at Montreal, we are informed that the Troops were cantoned in small parties over the Country, no preparations made of coming down as yet, tho' he says it is their undoubted determination to pay us a visit this season. Their Vessels at St. Johns are the Prideaux, the Inflexible of 20 Guns, the Maria, & Carleton, each of 16; the Washington Row Galley, & Lee Cutter taken from us last year, and a new 20 Gun ship to be finished by the first of June. Great uneasiness between the Canadians & Regulars, a universal Cry for Clothing, Provisions very high, & recruiting very slow indeed. The Prisoners taken by McKay at Sabbath day Point, were well treated & fed, & an absolute negative is put by General Carleton against further Scalping, which disgusted the Savages much. We have in this City a Motley Crew of 300 Savages, who appear friendly indeed—& under the Command of General Gates I trust we have nothing to fear in this Quarter. My God, what an alteration since his arrival! As to my Department it gives me pleasure to assure you that I have but 20 in the General Hospital & 11 Invalids in other places, in short the Troops are extremely Healthy; my Gardens go on well, I have 25 Acres at different places, my only ambition is to preserve the Health of the Soldiers & tenderly nurse the sick. Excuse this scrawl, should be happy to hear from you if your other more important Business would give you time, enclose a News paper. My Compliments to all friends & believe me to be your

most obed't humble Serv't,

JON'N POTTS.

Albany, May 25th, 1777.

Directed.

To Owen Biddle, Esquire, President of the Honble Board of War for the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Lewis Morris to Congress, 1777.

Head Quarters, Princeton, May 29th, 1777.

Dear Sir,

I am desired by Genl. Sullivan to communicate the following Intelligence to you which he received from an officer at Shrewsbury. That the two ships which the Enemy have been for some time fitting out at New York, mounting thirty two, twenty four and eighteen Pounders, sailed from the Hook last Monday afternoon and stood south in company of a ship of War of considerable Force. The two ships above mentioned were large and long and very low to the water The same day came into the Hook eighteen sail of Topsail Vessels, and one large man of War, which lay at the Hook yesterday morning.

From

yr hble Servant,

LEWIS MORRIS, A. D. C.

N. B. The two vessels alluded to be old East Indiamen cut down.

(Copy) To the officer commanding at Philada.

In Congress, May 30, 1777.

Ordered that a copy of the letter from Lewis Morris dated at Head Quarters Princeton, May 29, 1777, be sent to the Supreme executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Extract from the minutes,

CHAS. THOMSON, Sec.

The above is copy of a letter received by Congress and laid before His Excellency the president & members of council met. By their order it is sent to your honorable board.

Your very hmble Servant

T. MATLACK, Sec.

May 30, 1777.

Directed.

To the hon'ble Board of War for Pennsylvania.

Pres. Wharton to Geo. Bryant, & J. Evans, 1777.

Philadelphia May 30, 1777.

Sir,

His Excellency the president commands me to acquaint you that Mr. Bayly, Mr. Hoge and Mr. Proctor, members of Council are in the City that Mr. Morgan, is gone a journey to the Southward Mr. Taylor & Mr. Kidd are unwell, and cannot attend at present, and Mr. Eddy of York County is not come down, you will see the necessity of your attending in council if it be possible.

Congress have this day sent up a letter from Lewis Morris mentioning the sailing of two East India ships (out down) which the enemy have been repairing at New York for some time past, they carry 32, 24, & 18 pounders and were in company with a man of war of considerable force, they left the Hook on monday afternoon, and sailed South, and that on the same day eighteen topsail vessels arrived at the Hook and one man of War.

With great respect

I have the honor to be

Your very h'ble Seruant.

T. M.

Directed,

To Honb. Geo. Bryan, Esq., & Honb. John Evans, Esq.

Council to John Hancock, President. 1777.

May 30, 1777.

Sir,

Agreeable to the recommendation of Congress three thousand of the Militia of this State are ordered to encamp at Chester and Bristol part of which are arrived & the remainder are preparing to march with all dispatch.

The Committee of Congress in conference with the Board of war of this State on the subject of calling out the Militia informed them & myself that Congress would furnish the arms, Tents, &c., as were necessary to equip them. I am obliged to call on Congress for this supply, for I find that the Militia of Pennsylvania who have heretofore been called into service have from time to time left so many of of their arms in the hands of the Continental Commissaries by order of Gen. Washington; together with what has been supplied to the

troops of other States, as they are passing on to camp, that we are at present possessed of very few fit for service.

I must therefore request that you will please to order the necessary arms, Tents, and Camp equipage for the militia, now called into Service to be ready as they shall be called for by the General officers or Lieut's. of the Counties of this State, so as the militia may not be unnecessarily detained, but that they may be enabled to render immediate service to the States, to answer the design of Congress.

Directed,

To Hon'ble Jno. Hancock, Esq.

Bartrem Galbraith to President Wharton, 1777.

To his Excellencie, Thomas Wharton, ju^r, Esqr, Precident of the State of Pennsylvania.

Whereas, in Pursueance of your Excellencies appointment to me, directed as Lieutenant for the County of Lancaster, I called a meeting of the Sub Lieutenants appointed to my Assistance, divided the County into nine districts, & Issued my Warrants on the 5th day of April last to the Constables of the different Townships for returning to me the Names of all the Male white Persons between the Ages of Eighteen & fifty three Years, as directed by the Militia Law; after the time allowed them for the takeing in those returns of their respective districts, waited at Lancaster for the receipt of them, & rec^d returns for the Borrough and Twenty-four Townships out of Thirty-three; Eight Townships yet remain Unreturned, & seem to give a Violent Opposition to the measures; I believe owing to the poisoned minds of a few Individuals amongst us. I sent a Guard for two Constables within those Townships, (having paid no reguard to the Constable's Second Vissit) and has oblidged them to give their Bonds and Security by two Sufficient surities in 200£ each, for their appearance at the first Court of Record to be held at Lancaster, for the County of Lancaster, for their neglect of duty.

Yours Excellencies demand for 600 men from the County of Lancaster, to march to Chester, turned my views another way. I appointed days for the choice of Field Officers within the Several districts returned to me, as well as Company Officers, & drawing the Classes of each Company. Immediately on the appointment of the Colonels, transmitted to them a Copy of your Excellencies Letter, as well as the Resolve of Congress, with Instructions to hold the first Class of each Company, in their respective Battalions, in readyness for their March to Chester, at the same time pledging myself to them, that Notwithstanding some part of the Militia of the County remained unembodied, equal Justice should be don to them in a

Future day; observing to them, that the backwardness of a few Individuals ought not to be the means of endangering the State. As Officers, they have don their duty; but the backwardnes (or rather Opposition) of a few, exceedingly Impede their March. A number of People, who hitherto have declared against bearing of Arms on Acc^t of their Religious Principals, as well others, who have lifted Arms in defence of their Country, have Assembled (as I'm told) in different parts of the County, in order to prevent the March of those ordered to Chester; openly saying, if the first Class marches, we'l be obliged to March in our turn; but if prevented, the matter will be Settled. I therefore thought it my duty to wait of your Excellencie for particular Instructions in this matter, as well as a General rule for the line of my Conduct throughout that department, not being willing to undertake any thing that I was not able to go through with, or receive all necisary Aid. The Militia Law points out to me, that I'm to find Substitutes for all men *without exception*, who refuse to March three days after being called; is this the Case, few men you'l find to Say, it Answers me to stand my draught two Months in the Militia. I have offered ten Pounds ℔ month for Substitutes, but can't procure them for that money, and at the same time a Sufficient number of People Offering their Service. I would be glad to have that part of the Law explained, *as to finding Substitutes on as reasonable terms as may be*, that I might know the lengths I might Venture to proceed.

Your Excellencies Attention to this Matter, will Oblidge Friends to their Country, & particularly your Excellencies most Obed^t

Humble Servant,

BARTREM GALBRAITH, Col. on Com^d.

Lanc^r Co'ty.

Philad^a, 2^d June, 1777.

J. Hiltzheimer to Col. Matlack, 1777.

June 2^d, 1777.

Sir,

His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Desired I would Enquire whether the Present Possessors, Mess. Philip Odenheimer & Philip Hall, have a Lease on the Piece of Meadow belonging to Mr Galloway, on this side of Schuylkill; Am Informed by Abr^m Kintzing and Caleb Ash that they have Not.

Am, Sir, your hu^le Servt

J. HILTZHEIMER.

Directed,

To Colo^l T. Matlack.

SAM'L WETHERILL, JR., TO BOARD OF WAR OF PENNS., 1777.

Philadelphia, 6m°, 5, 1777.

The Honourable the Pennsylvania Board of War.

Gentlemen,

My son now presents you with my account for the Cloths which I have delivered you; the two first charged in the Acc^nt are particular peices. I gave an extraordinary price for the wool which made them, and the workmanship cost me considerably more than common goods; they were both intended for superfine Red, but one of them not Milling so regularly as it should for fine Cloth, the fuller, as is customary with such pieces, made a Coating of it, the whole I have delivered you were made before our agreement, and are not samples of what I shall make. I have now at the fullers, and expect soon to deliver you such as I suppose you want, and such as I understand to be according to agreement, but I expect it will be scarce possible to make much Cloth even at the Highest Price I mentioned, which was 27 6. A quantity you are to have at 25, there appears but little wool to be had unless it be at such an extravagant price as almost discourages me proceeding on in the Woolen branch of my business. Some who had engaged to let me have Wool at 7 6 ℔ lb, now part with it with reluctance, & think they sold it too Cheap; such are the extravagant Ideas of some People; my Spinners & Weavers have double their Wages, & labour in every Branch nearly so, so that upon the Whole Cloth cannot be made but at an exceeding high Price indeed. If you are Willing to give a price addequate to the advance of Wool, &c., I will continue to make for you, but if they come too high, & you can import them Cheaper, you will please to let me know, and I shall command my business accordingly.

from your friend,

SAM. WETHERILL, Ju'r.*

Directed,

To The Honourable, The Pennsylvania Board of War.

RESOLUTIONS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1777.

In General Assembly for the Common Wealth of Pennsylvania.

Friday, June 6th, 1777.

George Henry, the Lieutenant of the city of Philadelphia, having removed to a considerable distance therefrom, and thereupon resigned his said office. William Henry, Esquire, was unanimously appointed Lieutenant of the said City.

* See page 342.

On Motion.

Resolved, That Ephraim Bonham be, and he is hereby appointed one of the Sub Lieutenants of the said City of Philadelphia.

Friday, June 10th, 1777.

It being represented to the House, that it was necessary that another Sub-Lieutenant should be appointed for the City of Philad^a, it was thereupon—

Resolved, unanimously, That William Simple, Esqr, be, and he is hereby appointed a Sub-Lieutenant of the said City of Philad^a.

Extract from the Minutes.

JOHN MORRIS, Jr.
Cl^k Genl Ass^y.

Resolution of General Assembly, 1777.

Friday June 6th, 1777.

In General Assembly of Pennsylvania.

The House resumed the consideration of the Petition of Walter Hall, and after a full consideration thereof & also of the inconveniencies which happen to many of the good People of this Comon Wealth from the present unsettled State of Public Affairs, in order to afford some Relief in this and cases of a Similar Nature, it was

Resolved,

That where any Person who is Indebted to another and is about to remove out of this State without paying his Debts,* his Excellency the President of the Executive Council, the Vice President or any two Justices of the Peace of the City or County where such Debtor shall be or reside, shall after proof made before him or them of the Justice or Reality of the said Debt and of the Debtors Intention of Removing, Issue a warrant under his or their Hands & Seals directed to such person or persons as he or they may think proper, commanding the said Debtor to be brought before him or them, and he or the said Justices shall Commit such Debtor to the Common Jail of the City or County respectively unless the said Debtor shall then & there pay the money due, or give such Security to pay the money in such Reasonable Time as the said President Vice President or two Justices shall in their discretion think proper. Provided that nothing herein contained shall extend to Soldiers regularly Inlisted who are Indebted in a less sum than Fifty Dollars: And that no Power or Authority given by this Resolve shall Continue longer than until Remedies may be had in the usual Course of Justice.

Extract from the Minutes
JOHN MORRIS Jun.
Clk. of the Genl. Ass'y.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 215.

Resolutions of General Assembly 1777.

Tuesday June 10th. 1777.

In General Assembly for the State of Pennsylvania.

The House resumed the Consideration of the Report of the Committee respecting the Assignment of the Troops of this State to the Congress, and it was thereupon

Resolved, that this House do heartily concur with his Excellency the President and Council that it will be expedient to transfer to the Honble the Continental Congress, the Pennsylvania State Regiment comanded by Col^t Bull, the Regiment of Artillery commanded by Col^t. Proctor & Capt. Pugh's Company raised for the purpose of guarding the Powder Mills.

That his Excellency the President & Council be and they are hereby authorized and Impowered to Negotiate & Settle the said Transfer or assignment with the Congress on such Terms and Conditions as to them shall seem most proper, so as to have said Troops credited to the Quota of Men to be furnished by this State.

And also that it be recommended to them to procure Capt. Weaver's Company raised at Lancaster for the Use of the United States to be placed to the Credit of the same Account.

Extract from the Minutes,

JOHN MORRIS Jun.

Clerk of Genl Ass'y. *

D. Rittenhouse to T. Matlack, 1777.

Sir,

The sum at present in the Treasury is about Ten Thousand pounds. Col^l Kirkbride has just now presented an order for £1500 which will reduce it to £8500.

Your Humb^le Servant,

DAV^d RITTENHOUSE.

Philadelphia, June 10th, 1777.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esqr.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., pp. 216, 218.

Resolution of Assembly, 1777.

In General Assembly of the Common-Wealth of Pennsylvania.

Tuesday, June 10th, 1777.

General Mifflin desired to be Introduced into the House, which being accordingly done, he Informed them that he had it in Charge from his Excellency Genl Washington to assure them that it was his firm Opinion that the Enemy's Army meditated a sudden and Immediate attack upon some part of this State, and that he therefore earnestly requested that the Militia of this State, and particularly of this City & its neighbourhood, might be ordered to hold themselves in Readiness to march at a moments warning to such places as may be necessary.

It was thereupon Resolved that Doct. Gardner and Mr. McClean* be a Committee to wait upon the President and Council & Inform them of the said Intelligence; and request them in the Name of this House to take the most speedy & effectual measures to answer the purposes of his Excellency the Generals Message & frustrate the Hostile Intentions of the Enemy.

Extract from the Minutes,

JOHN MORRIS,

Cl'k Gen'l Ass'y.

Adam Hubley to Board of War of Penna., 1777.

Mount-prospect, near Bound-brook, June 10th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

Yours of ye 5th Instant receiv'd yesterday, you desire a General state^t of the Regiment to be made immediately. I must beg your Indulgence for a few days, as its not in my power to do it until I'm furnished with the pay & muster rolls of the Regiment, which I expect every hour, I have ordered them to this place with ye pay-master. I'm indeed anxious to comply with your request, as I look upon it a most esential matter, and will scarcely admit of any delay. I hope to be ready for you in a very short time.

Our present situation is such, that we know not ye moment we shall march from this place, we are at this moment ordered to lye on our arms. The Enemy are certainly in motion & mean to move shortly. What course they mean to steer we know not, numbers of deserters come in to us daily, they all agree they are in motion, and they (ye deserters) are told they mean to bend their course for

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. pp. 215, 217.

Philad^a—Opinions with us, differ, However a few days will satisfy us—Excuse haste.

Your Obedient Servant,
ADAM HUBLEY, Jr.,
L^t C^l 10th Reg^t.

Directed,

The Honble the Board of War for the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Fav'd by
Mr. Keen.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, 11 June, 1777.

Resolved,

That the Report of the Committee for viewing the Works erected for the defence of the River Delaware, together with the Resolution for calling out 500 of the New Jersey Militia be communicated to the President and Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, and that it be earnestly recommended to them, in Conjunction with General Mifflin and Monsieur DuCoudray, to carry into Execution the most effectual measures for defending the River Delaware.

Copy from the Journals,
WILLIAM Ch. HOUSTON, Dep. Sec'y.

Resolutions of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, June 11th, 1777.

Resolved,

That Governour Livingston be requested forthwith to order out 500 of the Militia of the State of New-Jersey to assist in compleating the Works now erecting at Billing's Port for the Defence of the River Delaware, it being of the utmost Consequence that the Fortifications at that Place, should be compleated without Delay.

Resolved,

That the Report of the Committee for viewing the Works erected for the Defence of the River Delaware together with the Resolution

for calling out 500 of the New-Jersey Militia, be communicated to the President and Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, and that it be earnestly recommended to them, in Conjunction with General Mifflin and Monsieur DuCoudray to carry into Execution the most effectual measures for defending the River Delaware.

Resolved,

That the Continental Navy-Board, or Board of Assistents to the Marine Committee be empowered to direct the Commanders of the several Continental Ships, Gallies, and other armed vessels now in the Delaware, to co-operate with the Naval Force of Pennsylvania in defending the several Capes thereof, should the Enemy make any attempts thereon.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, Sec'y.

Observations on the Forts intended for the Defence of the two passages of the River Delaware,

FORT AT BILLINGSPORT.

1. As to the Situation, it is well chosen, it commands the River in the narrowest Part I have seen, and is the most capable of Defence.

2. As to the Plan or Projection, it is very bad. The object in view ought to have been to defend the Chain of Chevaux-de-Frize, which bar the River. For that purpose 30 or 40 Cannon well placed would have been sufficient. The edge of the Scarp would have afforded Room enough; it was therefore necessary to shut the gorge of the Battery, so that the Enemy might be obliged to land and open Trenches, in order to take possession of it. And in the particular circumstances in which this Fort was begun, it was necessary in 6 weeks or two months to have had something finished to answer the end proposed. But to complete it agreeable to the present circumference, and to finish the half-moon necessary to command the Heighth on the opposite side of the River, would require at least four or five Months, provided it were well constructed and a great number of men were employed, in as much as the soil is the most unfavourable that can be met with.

Besides the Length of Time, which the plan of this work would require in the present situation of affairs, another inconvenience attends it, which is, that it would require for its defence, a more numerous Garrison than could be spared from the Army, for it would

require at least 2000 men, as, from the Badness of the soil, the Enemy's Cannon would soon make great Destruction, which must be repaired every Night, to prevent the works from being stormed.

3. As to the Execution of these works, I find it to be without judgment. The Planks and Piles to support the sand are not half thick enough. The Piles instead of being inclined to bear against the Bank, have been fixed perpendicular and are already overturned. Instead of placing the Batteries destined to fire on the River, on the Border of the Scarp, they have placed them 7 or 8 Fathoms back, which removes them farther from their objects, and exposes them to the Enemy's attempts at the bottom of the Scarp. And suppose the works completed, only one Piece of Cannon can do Execution; instead of making use of the ground which forms the Border of the Scarp, and which is firm on the superficies, and supported, at least for some depth by the Roots of Trees which grow there, they have raised a great part of the Breastwork with loose sand in the manner before mentioned, and have taken the trouble to sink a Ditch, which might have been spared, as the Scarp answered the Purpose. From whence it appears that no dependence can be put upon this work, as it cannot be finished in time and requires too great a number of men and artillery for its Defense.

To defend the Chain of Chevaux-de-Frize which bars the River opposite to the Fort, all dependence for the present must be on the Floating-Batteries and Gondolas which are ready, or which can soon be so. Some use however can be made of a Part of the Fort, of which we have been speaking; and for this purpose there should be a battery fixed in each of the two Demi-Bastions on the side of the River, and by cutting those two Demi-Bastions by the Gorge and the angle of the Flank, they will each be transformed into a Redoubt with four Fronts, each of these Redoubts may be secured against a Coupe de Main by covering them with a double Ditch and Pallisades in the bottom of the Ditch.

It will then be necessary to level all those Parts of the Fort which may serve to cover the Enemy.

These two Works by means of 1500 or 2000 Labourers well directed may be executed in 20 Days; and in my opinion this is all that can be done in the present situation of affairs.

I would advise to hazard in those Redoubts only 4 or 500 men with 25 or 30 Pieces of Cannon, still observing that it is not upon them, but on the Floating Batteries supported by those Redoubts that the defence of the Chevaux-de-Frize depends.

In times less urgent than the present, a better use might be made of this Place, but by reason of the Badness of the soil, nothing solid can be constructed but by extreme expense.

Unless shoal Water prevents the Enemy from going to the opposite side of the River, it will be necessary to construct on the opposite Island, another battery of 15 or 20 guns, which must also be fortified. This may be performed with little expense on account of the

goodness of the Soil and the Facility of making use of the River to cover it by wide and deep Ditches.

The Fort.

The fort is badly situated; the Battery which forms its principal object is improperly directed, which renders Half the guns useless: The embrasures are badly constructed, too open on the inside, and not sufficiently open without, some are directed obliquely without any motive; the interiour slopings are too straight, and by this means begin already to tumble down.

This Fort cannot prevent the passage of the Enemy, and when they have passed, it can be of no use, consequently it can answer no valuable purpose.

Fort at Red Bank.

This fort is better conceived, directed, and executed than either of those above mentioned. It does the more Honour to Colonel Bull, as he had no other assistance than natural good-sense unenlightened by theory. This is perceivable from a view of it. There are indeed Faults in the Plan, and in the execution, but they do not render it useless as the two former forts. If we may judge by the proportion of the work already finished, it is reasonable to expect the whole will be in a state of Defence in the Course of a Fortnight.

What unfortunately renders this Fort of little or no consequence is this, it's object is, and can be no other than to prevent the Enemy from taking Possession of the Heighth upon which it is situated, in order to establish Batteries and thereby oblige the gallies and Floating-Batteries employed in supporting the Chain of Chevaux-de-Frize, to retreat. But this Case could never happen, unless the Enemy should be exposed to a fire from the Floating-Batteries and Gallies which they could not silence with their Ships. This would oblige them to land men and artillery, to occupy by Force, the Highth in Question, and then fire on the Floating-Batteries and gallies occupied in supporting the Chain. But the situation of the place will not permit such an Idea; for the River is here so wide that if the States had four times as many gallies, Ships, and Batteries as they have at this place and above it, the Enemy we must think, would still have a superior Fire, as the width of the River would allow them to employ a greater number of Ships. If by this means, they succeed in beating off the Gallies and Floating-Batteries, it cannot be supposed they will put themselves to the trouble of landing to attack Colonel Bull's Fort.

Therefore I look upon this Fort as useless with Respect to the object for which it was intended, viz., to contribute in obstructing the passage of the River, and preventing the enemy from possessing the Highth it commands.

This passage is much too wide to be defended by the present means. I would therefore advise to carry all the means of Defense

to the passage at Billingsport. This place is incomparably more capable of support, and it is better to make a reputable stand in one place, than to defend two in an indifferent manner. The Gallies and Floating-Batteries removed thither, will make up for the Insufficiency of the intrenched Battery, which I would propose to substitute in place of the present Fort, and of that which I still think ought to be erected at the Point of the Island, the River being much narrower in this place than in that of which we have been speaking. The Gallies and Batteries may more easily make Head against the Enemy who will not be able to make so great a Fire, and will be obliged to bear a much nearer one, and better supported, than could be opposed to them at Red-Bank. The cannon at this Fort might partly serve for the Batteries at Billingsport. I would not however advise to demolish the Battery at Red-Bank. But to leave there two or three of the poorest of the Cannon.

I would also advise to remove from this Line no more Cheveaux de Frize than would be judged necessary to secure by three Rows, the Passage of Billingsport.

I also advise to preserve Colonel Bull's Fort. Thereby you may induce the Enemy to believe they would have a second Line of obstacles to encounter after they had surmounted the first; and besides for another Reason, which appears to me a very important one, especially in the present Circumstances of Affairs, the Government would escape the Censure of Inconsideration and mistakes, which the evil-minded are always ready to pass, and the People to adopt, when they see works, which have been erected with much Labour and Expense, pulled down. For the same Reason, I would propose to preserve in Colonel Jones's Fort, all that will not be of service to the Enemy in Case they should attack the Redoubts, which I think ought to be substituted in Place of this Fort.

My Thoughts on the above Subjects, as here expressed, seem the better founded, as they appeared to conform with the Ideas of General Arnold, to whom I had the Honour to communicate them, as far as the Difference of Language would permit; and also with those of Mr. Duer and Mr. Shea, by whom I had the advantage of being understood.

(Signed) DU COUDRAY.

Col. Ja's Chambers to Board of War of Penns'a, 1777.

Mount Prospect Camp, 13th June, 1777.

Sir,

I received your favour of the 5th Inst., with the order from the board of war, to make Return of all the men Recruited for the Regt Since the 16th of Septr Last. I am Sorry it is not in my power, for under my present Circumstances it is an imposability, as four of my Captns is on the Recruiting Service, and Some of them, Since that time, Left the Regt, and others promoted, and the unsetled way of Regt Since the Retreat of the Army Last Winter—their papers is Scattered in the different parts where their Baggage was sent, and they have not yet Got them Collected—however, I will give you the present State of the Regt, and as soon as the officers Returns I will make you a Report agreeable to your order; the Late appointed officers is on the Recruiting Service, and wheather they will all Joyn me or not I cannot tell, but as you have a List of the officers of the Regt, I Shall Give You only a Return of the Non Commissioned officers & privates.

I am Sir, with the Greatest Respect,

Your most obt Hne Servt,

JAMES CHAMBERS, Col. 1st Regt.

Directed,

On publick Service. To Owin Biddle, President of the Pennsylvania Board of War.

Favoured by Major Miller.

Lewis Nicola to Col. Matlack, 1777.

June 13th, 1777.

Sr,

I am directed by Majr Genl Mifflin to desire you will, in his name, request of his Excell'y & the Honble Executive Council, an order to the Constables of the different townships, at a reasonable distance from this City, to collect a number of Waggons, which he thinks will be a more eligible mode than employing the Military in pressing them. The General thinks 200 Waggons will be necessary, but for the present half the number may, with what can be voluntarily hired, serve.

I am Sr,

Your most obedt servt,

LEWIS NICOLA, T M.*

Directed,

To Colonel Matlack.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 222, 223.

Council to the Lieutenants of the Counties, 1777.

In Council, June 13th, 1777.

Sir,

In my letter of the 25th April, I requested you to to exert yourself to arrange the Militia of your county agreable to a law of the General Assembly, and immediately to order out the first class in consequence of a resolve of Congress. I can have no doubt of your firm attachment to our cause and of your ready complyance with such orders as you may receive from the Council in the line of your duty, and therefore conclude the Militia of your county to be in such forwardness as they will soon appear at Camp, where I shall endeavour to have them supplied with such articles as you cannot possibly procure for them.

His Excellency General Washington is of opinion that the enemy meditate an immediate attack against this State, which by the assist- of their ships (and we are told they are in perfect readiness) they may make in such a quarter as we may least expect. I therefore have been for some time impatiently expecting to hear that the first class of y^r County Militia had joined the Camp forming at , and that the second was ready to march on the shortest notice.

Commissioners of Lancaster to William Atlee, 1777.

Lancaster, the 14th June, 1777.

Sir,

I am ordered by the Commissioners appointed in this County for aiding and assisting the Board of Warr in carrying into execution such measures as may be recommended for the safety of the Commonwealth, to mention that agreeable to the Resolve of the Board of the 2d of May past, we have assessed the different Townships in this County in such manner as we thought best to procure the five Hundred Blankets, required of the County; and have already received in about three hundred Blankets, which will be packed up and sent to Philadelphia the beginning of next Week. The residue of the Blankets required of us we shall endeavour to have collected as expeditiously as possible. They come high, being appraised at about Three Pounds each on an average. Those which have come in we have advanced the money for, and therefore request the Board will be pleased to forward us such a Sum of Money as will enable us to reimburse ourselves & pay for the remainder.

Mr. Singer, who is the bearer of this, will return in a day or two,

& will doubtless take charge of any matters the Board may choose to intrust him with for us.

I am, Sir,
By order of the Commiss'rs,
your most obed't Serv't,
WILL. ATLEE, Ch'n.

Directed,

To the Honourable the President of the Board of Warr of the State of Pennsylvania.

☞ Mr. Singer.

Wm. Ch. Houston to Council, 1777.

Saturday afternoon, 14 June, 1777.

Sir,

Am directed by Congress to transmit you the enclosed Resolution of this Day, and

have the Honour to be
with all Respect
Your most obed^t
h'ble Servant,
WILLIAM CH. HOUSTON.

Directed,

His Excellency the President, or The Hon'ble the Vice President of Council, State Pennsylvania.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, 14 June, 1777.

Resolved,

That Major General Arnold be authorized to take upon him the Command of all the militia now at Bristol and on every other part of the River Delaware to the Eastward of Philadelphia, which have been called forth into Service by a Requisition of the twenty-fourth Day of April last, and that he be authorized to dispose of himself, and the Troops under his command in such a manner as he shall deem best adapted to promote the publick service.

Ordered,

That a Copy of this Resolution be sent to the President and Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania for their concurrence.

Copy from the Journals of Congress.
WILLIAM CH. HOUSTON, Dep. Sec.

RICHARD W. STOCKTON TO CORTLAND SKINNER, B. G. 1777.

Philada. State Prison, June 15th, 1777.

Sir,

I am just now setting off from this Place for York Town with all the People that came with me & many others that are confin'd here. I have been this long Time in a very poor state of health myself, but am getting something better, the men are in general in good health but much in want of clothing, being almost naked, we are also in much want of some Cash as every thing is at most extravagant rate here, which hath quite run me out. Therefore if you would take the first opportunity of sending the Men's Cloathing & Money which we are greatly Distressed for, it will greatly oblige me, I have sent you several Letters but as yet have received no answer which makes me think I am quite forgotten.

Your Compliance will
greatly oblige your
Most obedient & very
Humble Servt
RICHARD W. STOCKTON.

Directed.

To Cortland Skinner, Esq., B. G., of the New Jersey Volunteers.
To the Care of
Mr. D. Frank.

BENEDICT ARNOLD TO ———, 1777.

Cornel's Ferry, June 15, 1777, 5 o'clk.

Dr General,

I have rec'd no intelligence from Gen. Washington since 4 o'clk last evening, at which time the enemy were encamped at Sommersett Court House, supposed to be seven thousand, under the Command of Generals Howe & Cornwallis, this is doubtless their main body, their first design seems to have been to cut off Gen. Sullivan's retreat &

possess themselves of this place, finding Gen. Sullivan had frustrated their Intentions by a forced march, they appear to have given over their first design & now wish to draw Gen. Washington from his Strong ground, which if they can effect probably a Body from Brunswick will take possession of it, Gen. Washington will doubtless disappoint them as he remains quiet in his encampment. The militia turn out in great numbers in the Jersies, Gen. Sullivan has gone to Flemingtown twelve miles from this, the Troops who arrive here are immediately sent after him, I am very fearful the enemy will retire to Brunswick before you arrive with your reinforcements, & oblige us to attack them at a disadvantage, for fight them we must, when all our reinforcements are in we cannot avoid it with *Honor*, our men are in high spirits, & in four Days we shall have upwards of twenty thousand men. Gen. Putnam has 8000 men with him, Gen. Washington has wrote three Days since for 4000 to be sent him immediately. Many of the militia have little Ammunition, the cartredges sent to Bristol will soon be exhausted, it will be necessary to send here one hundred thousand Cartredges sorted, a QuarterMaster is also wanted—Gen. Sullivan has joynd him no person, is now here fit for the purpose.

I expect every minute to hear from our Army & the Enemy every intelligence of consequence shall be forwarded to you directly.

I am Dr Gen.,

yours &c.,

Signed, B. ARNOLD.

P. S. 11 o'clk, P. M.

I have detained the Express this four hours in expectation of hearing from Gen. Washington, sensible of your anxiety in not hearing from me to Day I have sent him off, & will immediately dispatch an Express on advice of any thing of consequence.

Yours &c.,

B. A.

Lieutenant Kirkbride to President Wharton, 1777.

Bucks County, Sunday Morning, 15th Jun, 1777.

I have this moment Rec'd Your Excellency's Letter of the 13th Int, and Can asure you Sr, that the Battallions of this County, compos'd of the 1st Class, have been in readiness for some Weeks past, and are Now, by General Orders, at Corell's Ferry. I will, according to your Excely's Orders, Exert myself to the Utmost, in giting Out the Second Class—for which I expect I shall want many armes & Accoutrements.

With respect to the Wagons, Nothing shall be wanting on my part, and I am at all times ready to Obey your Orders, & am Your Excellency's most Obedt

Humb Servt,

JO. KIRKBRIDE, Lieut B. C.

Directed,

To His Exelency, Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President of the State —Pennsya.

RICHARD M'ALLISTER TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Hanover, 16th June, 1777.

Sr,

This Moment Recd yr Letter by Express. I have Devouted the Grateest part of My Time in Indeavouring to arainge the Militia of this County; and I believe the taske will be too hard for me, as many Parts of it will not meet together to Do any thing.

I have waited on several Batalions time after time; Can't get them to Choose an Officer; Others is in Pretty Good forwardness.

I shall Exert Every Power in me to Git them out, but am shure of failing with at least the half or more.

I shall not loss one day, & will write ye Honr of my success.

I am, with Due Respect,

yr Most Obedient Hble Sert,

Rd M'CALISTER.

Directed,

To The Honorable Thos Wharton, Esqr., President of the State of Penns'y, Philadelphia.

☞ Express.

BENJAMIN FLOWER TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Hon. Sir,

Mr Jas Byers, who is the Gentleman that has Cast the Brass Cannon for us, is ordered to hold himself in readiness to remove with his Apparatus, Metal, &c., at a moment's warning as he is to continue at his work til the approach of the Enemy makes it necessary for him to remove. He thinks that a protection from your Honour for his Person will be necessary to prevent his being taken from the Service

he is engaged in, and draughfted into the Militia, and ordering him every assistance necessary for the safety and removeal of himself & charge. Your Excellency's complyance with the above request, will oblige your most Obed^t Hum. Servt,

BENJ. FLOWER,
Comis. Gen^al M. Stores.

Directed,
To His Excellency, Thos Wharton, Pres^t S^t P.
16 June, 1777, Phil^a.

To S. Hunter from Council, 1777.

Philadelphia, June 16, 1777.

Sir,

A letter has been written by the General officers to you and the other Lieutenants of the counties to order out the whole Militia. Altho' this has been done with a good intention, as they are zealously attached to our cause, yet the Council are of opinion it may tend to confusion, and that those gentlemen did not properly consider the embarrassment that would ensue upon such a step.

From the intelligence that has been received of the movement of the enemy, and the certainty of their design of invading this state with a numerous army, the Council have agreed, that it is necessary, and have ordered, that two classes of the Militia of Philadelphia, Chester, Bucks, Lancaster, Cumberland, York, Berks and Northampton, to march to the places of their respective destination.

The situation and circumstances of your county induce the Council to order but one class of your Militia into the Field. I do therefore hereby order you to array and bring out the first class of the Militia of your county, and to march them as soon as possible to Bristol, on the Delaware. And further, you are to use your utmost diligence in getting ready the second class, which, it is but too probable will be called upon in a short time. You are to obtain as many Blankets and Arms fit for service as can be procured in the county; and you may depend on it, that whatever may be deficient, shall be supplyed to them, on their arrival at Bristol.

A compliance with the Militia law, is the only means whereby the fines and forfeitures of delinquents can be recovered; it is therefore recommended by the Council, that a strict attention be paid to the directions of that law, and particularly that the greatest regard be had to that part of it which directs the procuring of substitutes, whom you are to exert yourself to obtain, by every means, that the law will justify.

As there are many worthy persons, who may not fall into the first

or second class, whose warm attachment to the cause of Freedom may induce them to turn out as Volunteers, the service of those Gentlemen will be thankfully received by the Council. This I beg you to make known as opportunity offers.

Directed,

To Samuel Hunter, Esqr, Lieu^{t} of the County of Northumberland.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1777.

War Office, June 16th, 1777.

Sir,

By Order of the Board of War, I have the Honour of inclosing you two Resolves of Congress, to the latter whereof I won'd particularly request your immediate attention, as great Inconveniences daily arise from the Lists of the Army not being completely returned.

You will be pleased also to render an account to the Board of all monies expended on account of Prisoners of War & sums paid to them. You will be pleased to be very exact in the account, and see that no Charges are omitted as the Enemy are rigidly accurate in their Charges against the States on acc^{t} of Prisoners. All Sums omitted will be lost by the State wherein the Charge was neglected to be made.

I have the honor to be,

Your very obedient Servant,

RICHARD PETERS, Sec'y.

Directed,

His Excell'cy Thomas Wharton, jr., Esq., President of the Executive Council of Pennsilvania.

War Office,
Richard Peters, Sec'y.

In Congress, 1st April, 1777.

Resolved,

That no Officer already appointed, or to be hereafter appointed in the Army of the United States, shall take rank by Virtue of a Commission antidated, but rank shall be determined by the time of Appointment unless otherwise directed by special Resolution of Congress.

That it be recommended to the Legislatures and in their recess to the executive Powers of the respective States, that they forthwith transmit to the Board of War exact Lists of all Officers appointed by them in the Continental Army with the dates of their Commissions and Times of Appointment.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, Sec'y.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq., President of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

Council to Congress, 1777.

June 16th, 1777.

The great sum of money wanted to hire substitutes in the Militia now called into service has drained our treasury—and the money struck by the Assembly cannot be signed in time to answer the present emergency—I must therefore request that Congress will lend to the Council the sum of fifty thousand dollars, and care shall be taken to return it in a short time—so as that it may not be necessary to pass it to the general account of this State. I have no other resource at present, and therefore am under the necessity Sr of mentioning that unless I'm supply'd by Congress the Militia cannot march for some Days.

Directed,

Hon'ble John Hancock, Esqr, President of Congress.*

Resolution of General Assembly, 1777.

In General Assembly,

Monday, June 16th, 1777.

On Motion,

Resolved that all the Militia men of this State now going into the Field be allowed a gill of Rum or Whiskey each man per day over & besides the Rations allowed by Congress, & that the President & Council take the proper method of supplying the same.

Extract from the Minutes,

JOHN MORRIS, Jr.,

Cl'k of Genl Ass'y.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 224.

COPY—GENL. WASHINGTON TO ——— 1777.

Head Quarters Middle Brook June 17, 1777.

Dr. Sr.,

I have rec^d your favor of the 16 Inst.—you mention a want of intelligence respecting my situation and that of the enemys—as to mine the main Body of our Army are encamped at Middle Brook and considerable force under Gen. Sullivan lies at Sourland Hills—our Position is strong and with a little Labour will be renderd much more so—the Passes in the Mountains are most of them extremely difficult of access and cannot be attempted without the most imminent Hazard—our right is our only weak part—but two or three redoubts will pretty effectually remedy its defects—As to the Enemy they are very strongly posted their right at Brunswick and their left at Sommerset—they are well fortified on the right and have the Rariton in front and Milstone on the left—in this situation an attack upon them would not be warranted by a sufficient prospect of success and might be attended with the most ruinous consequences—My design is to Collect all the force that possibly can be drawn from other quarters to this Post so as to reduce the security of this Army to the greatest certainty possible and to be in a condition of embracing any fair opportunity that may offer to make an attack on advantageous terms. In the mean time I intend by Light Bodies of Militia seconded and encouraged by a few Continental Troops to Harass and diminish their number by continual skirmishes. I have ordered all the Continental Troops at the Pecks Kill except the number requisite for the security of the Post to hasten on to the Army and shall call a part of Gen. Sullivans Troops to reinforce our Right leaving the rest at & about Sourland Hill to Gall the Flank and the Rear of the Enemy—in case of any movement towards us he is to endeavor to form a Junction, or if it should not be practicable is to give them all the Annoyance he can on the rear & flank according to circumstances. The Views of the Enemy must be to give a severe Blow to this Army and to get Possession of Philada. both are objects of importance but the former is far the greatest. While we have a respectable force in the Field every acquisition of Territory they may make will be precarious, and perhaps Burthensome, but were this not the case I am clearly of opinion they will not move towards Philad. without first endeavoring to disable us and prevent our following them—the risk would be too great to attempt to cross a River where they must expect to meet a formidable opposition in front and would have such a force as ours Hovering on their Rear—they might possibly succeed but the probability would be infinitely against them—should they however be imprudent enough to make the attempt I shall keep close upon their Heels & do every thing in my power to make the project fatal to them—but besides the argu-

ment for their intending in the first place a stroke at this Army drawn from the Policy of the measure every appearance coincides to confirm the opinion—had their design been in the first instance to Cross the Delaware they would probably have made a secret rapid March towards it and not halted as they have done to awaken our attention and give us time to make every preparation for obstructing them—Instead of that they have only advanced to a position covenient for an attack upon our right which as I before observed is the part they have the greatest likely hood of injuring us in, and added to this consideration they have come out as light as they could, leaving all their Baggage, provisions except enough to subsist them two or three days at a time, Boats and Bridges at Brunswick which forcebly contradict the Idea of an immediate expedition towards the Delaware. It is an happy circumstance that so great an animation prevails amongst the people. I wish to let it operate and bring as many as possible together which will be a great discouragement to the Enemy by shewing that the spirit of Opposition runs so high and at the same time will inspire the people with confidence in themselves by discovering to every individual the great zeal and attachment of others, but after they have been collected a few Days I would have the greatest part of them dismissed as not being immediately wanted. This will send them home in a good humour and make them willing to turn out again in any emergency. It will be proper to concert signals with them, at the appearance of they are to fly to Arms—use every method to engage about two thousand of them for a month or as much more as they can be induced to consent to, if this can be done they may be made to render very essential service. Forward all the Continental Troops by a safe rout as fast as they arrive, but send over no more of the Militia till further orders. I appprove of your fortifying such places as you judge most likely to frustrate any attempts of the Enemy to pass the River.

I am with &c.,

G. W.

We have been so crowded with business at Head Quarters that I have not been able to write fully to Congress, I should therefore be glad you would communicate the purport of this Letter to them.

BENJ. EYRE TO B. G. THOMAS MIFFLIN, 1777.

June 17, 1777.

A fording place two miles above Trentown Not Rappid, 4 feet & half Wauter.

Yarley's ferry, Not Rappid, 4 feet Wauter, 300 yds wide 4 miles from Trentown a Road Leading from Maidenhead to it.

Scudders falls 2 miles higher up, 4 or 5 feet Wauter, Rappid at the head of the Island, 150yds mane Channel.

Brown's ferry 2 miles above Scudders falls 250 yds across.

Noleses Cove, 2 miles above Brown's, 125 yds, Rappid & deep.

Pettets ferrey 1 mile above Noleses Cove, good fording plaice, 4½ Wauter, 300yds, wide, good road from Penneytown.

Welsees falls, one mile & ¼ from Coreyels, a good Place, for a bridge 250 yds across, Good Road & good ground.

Coreyels ferry Rapped Deep & wide, 400 yds across.

Dear Gen.

I have made Inquirerey about all the fording Plaices Betwen this & Trentown, Where it is Likely the Enemy will cross Welses falls will Be the Best Plaice for them on accompt of the Hights, Half of the Boats I have got mov'd 10 miles higher up from this By Genl. Arnold's orders, Genl. Arnold thinks he can stop the Enemy should they move on untill Genl. Washington comes up with them with 4000 men, the troops Comes in very fast, the enemy is Entrenching at Somerset the Jersey militia took one Serjeant of the British light horse yesterday, he is here now, Saith he set out for Philada., Gen. Sullivan is at Flemingtown With his Division, Princetown Road is all left open for the Enemy, Would it Not Be Prudent to send on a few P'ss of Cannon to Welses falls, I am Now going up ten miles higher up to view the ground, In Case Genl. Washington should want to cross above this.

I am Dear Sir

Your assur'd

BENJ'N. EYRE.

Coriells ferry, June 17th, 1777, Half past 8 o'clock.

Directed,

To His Excellencey Thomas Mifflin Major Genl.

William Atlee to Board of War, 1777.

Lancaster the 17th June, 1777.

Sir,

I wrote a Day or two since by Mr. Singer of this place respecting the Blankets ordered to be furnished by this County, and now send by John Reed, Waggoner, two hundred and seventy five Blankets, for which he has given me his receipt, We shall exert ourselves to have the remainder as quick as possible.

I am Sir

By order of the Commissioner

Your most obedt Servt

WILLm ATLEE, Ch'n.

P. S. I wrote lately as Chairman of the Committee to the Board, mentioning that the Inhabitants here were uneasy at the number of British Prisoners placed here, & that they requested they might be distributed elsewhere—they have been troublesome & as we cannot avoid placing them in the Barracks among the Hessians are apprehensive they will debauch those people who have hitherto behaved pretty well, as indeed there is some appearance of it already.

I am Sir,

Your most obedt Servt

WILLm ATLEE, Ch'n.

Directed,

The Honourable the President of the Board of war of Pennsylvania.

To John Reed driver of Joseph Dewees's waggon, with 275 Blankets.

Benedict Arnold to President Wharton, 1777.

Corryells Ferry, 18 June, 1777.

Sir.

I have this minute received a Letter from His Excellency General Washington, as it in part respects the militia of your State & fortifying the Delaware, I have taken the Liberty of inclosing a copy of it for your perusal which I beg may be communicated to Council only, on consultation with General Potter, we are fully of opinion, that the first class of your militia (which he informs me will make three thousand men) with the State Regiment, will answer every purpose which his Excellency Genl. Washington expects from them

and will effectually guard & fortify the Delaware, we propose to have them arranged in the following manner Viz., Colonel Stewarts Battalion with one thousand militia at Red Bank, Fort Island & Billingsport, to compleat the works at those Posts; two thousand militia stationed between Corryells Ferry, & Bristol to fortify and guard the most accessable Passes on the Delaware, which we apprehend will be sufficient with the militia that may be occasionally called in, I have wrote Congress & General Mifflin fully on the subject; I make no doubt they will, with General Armstrong, agree with me as to the numbers & arrangement of the Troops.

I have also inclosed you a sketch of the Places necessary to be fortified and guarded from this to Bristol, which I am going with General Potter to examine this day, if after taking a more minute view of the passes we should alter our opinion, with respect to the number of Troops necessary to guard them, you shall have the earliest advice of the same.

I am with
great Respect & esteem
Sir,
Your obedt Humble Servt
B. ARNOLD.

Directed,

On Public Service.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton Esq., President of the State Pinsilvania Philada.

Sam'l Hunter to President Wharton, 1777.

Fort Augusta, 19th June, 1777.

Sr,

Yours of the sixteenth Inst. I received. I had orders from Generals Mifflin, Armstrong, and Potter, to turn out our Militia, and according to the Orders received, I immediately gave orders for the different Sub Lieutenants of this County, to get the two first Classes out of each Company ready. Their Orders came to hand the 17th Inst., which was communicated to the Colonels of our County, & in obedience to that, they were to march two Classes out of each Company, on Monday or Tuesday next. But as one Class is deemed sufficient, they shall march on one or other of those Days, 'tho 'tis very hard upon the People to leave this part of the Country at this Time of the year, yet their attatchment to the present

Cause, which I hope will always be the motive that induces the Militia to march, stimulates them.

I am y^r Excellencys

most h'ble serv^t,

SAM'L HUNTER.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Junr.

COMMITTEE, SAMUEL DAVISON TO ROBERT MORRIS, ESQ.

Wednesday Morning, June 19, 1776.*

Honored S^r,

Permit me to acquaint you of the transactions of Yesterday in the fleet. Captn Hamilton, on his coming down in the forenoon, Imedately hois^d his Broad Pendant as Second in Command. Captn Dougherty Repare^d on Board the province Ship & Demanded the Broad Pendant to be hauled down. Mr Yourk, the commanding officer, told Dougherty his pendant Should not come down By his orders unless he produced his authority from the Committee Saftey, in consequence of which Dougherty hois^d his Broad pendant as Comm^r in Chief, By order of the publick, as he said to Mr York. Permit me S^r, to Beg your Interest to Command the Lexinton, when Captn Barrey Resigns, as I imagine it will Be Imposable for me to Command the present Commanders of our Armament, unless there is such Imedate Steps taken as will Make them Comply with their duty.

S^r, I remain your most

Ob^t Hum^ble Servt,

SAM'L DAVISON.

Directed,

To Robert Morris, Esqr, Phil^a.

APPLICATION OF COUNCIL FOR A LOAN OF MONEY, 1777.

Sir,

Agreeable to above resolve of the General Assembly, and at the Request of the Council, I beg you will lend to the State of Penn-

* This paper has no date—it is thus endorsed—if correct, its proper place would be elsewhere—(Vol. IV.)

sylvania the additional sum of fifty thousand Dollars, to be repaid in a very short time.

Directed,

Letter to the Hon'ble John Hancock, Esqr, President at Congress. Annexed to Minutes of 19th June, 1777.

Council to Joseph Reed, Esq., 1777.

To Joseph Reed, Esq.

Sir,

The Council are very desirous of information which they can depend on, of your resolution as to the accepting the appointment of Chief Justice of this State.* And I have his Excellency the Presidents orders, to request that you will, within a few days, inform him of your determination on this subject.

With the greatest respect,

I am,

your very hble servt,

T. M.

Phila, June 20, 1777.

To Lieutenants of Counties from Exec'e Council, 1777.

In Council.

Philad, June 19, 1777.

Sir,

I wrote to you of the 18th Ins., and ordered that the 1st & 2nd Class of the Militia of your County, should immediately be sent to Camp, & that you should be in such forwardness with the third, that it could be ordered out at a moments warning. The accounts recd from Genl Washington this Day of the Enemy's movement, is such that he is in hopes that, if the first Class of your County should turn out, in such number as we have given reason to believe, this will be sufficient until he can give us further information, which we shall communicate to you as soon as we receive it. Relying fully on your activity to compleat the first Class, and being perfectly apprized how inconvenient to the good people of your County it

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 186, 202, 249, and page 289, of this Vol. He declined accepting on 23 July, and gave his reasons in writing. (not found.) See Vol. 1, p. 301, of his Life, &c.

would be to leave their Farms at this season, the Council think it a Duty incumbent on them to make the Burthen of this Necessary War as light as possible and not to call out the Militia but when there is an absolute Necessity. At present, therefore, our first Class only will be called for, but the second should be put in such forwardness as to be ready to march as soon as you have the order of Council for that purpose.

Directed,

Letter to the Lieutenants of the Counties of Lancaster, Berks & Northampton.

To the Lieutenants, from Council, 1777.

June 19, 1777.

Sir,

In my letter to you of the 13th of this Instant, it was the opinion of the Council, from the advices they had received of the movements of the Enemy, that they intended to make a sudden push towards this State, whereby it became necessary to call forth two Classes of the Militia of your County. Since the Issuing of said order, the accounts received from his Excellency General Washington, are more favourable. The Council therefore persuaded of your forwardness & zeal in complying with every order that may Issue from them on the like occasion, & unwilling to put the good people of your County to any Inconveniences at so busy a season of the year, but when their service may be absolutely necessary, only require at present that you hold the first Class of the Militia in your County, in a state of readiness to march on the first notice, and to have it full and compleat. I trust that this change in the order will not in the least relax the minds of the first Class from putting themselves in such a state of preparation as to be ready to march on the shortest notice.

I am, Sir,

yours, &c.,*

Circular to the Lieutenants of York, Cumberland, and Northumberland Counties.

* See page 366.

COPY. J. P. EUSTACE TO MAJ. GENL. MIFFLIN, 1777.

Sourland Mountains, June 19, 1777.

Dear General,

I am directed by General Sullivan to inform you, that by the scouts who are just returned, we learn that enemy have recrossed the Milstone, and are retreating to Brunswick. We have seen several very large fires, which we believe to be Middle Bush and that place. You must excuse this shocking scrawl, as I am obliged to write on my knee; & believe me with the greatest respect,

Y^r most obed^t Servant,
J. S. EUSTACE,
Aid de Camp.

Major Genl. Mifflin.

We have dispatched our Lt Horse to Princetown to reconnoitre that road. Should they proceed that way we shall acquaint you of it.

E.

RESOLUTION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1777.

In General Assembly, Thursday, June 19, 1777.

On Motion,

Resolved that the President and Committee be Authorized and Impowered to borrow from the Congress any Sum of Money not exceeding One hundred thousand Dollars to answer the Imediate Exigencies of the State, and to be repaid in a very short time out of the monies now issuing by Virtue of the Two hundred thousand Pounds act, enacted at the last sitting of this House.

Extract from the Minutes.

JOHN MORRIS, J^r,
C'lk of Gen'l Ass'y.

Board of War to Board of War of Pennsylv'a, 1777.

War Office, June 20th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

A proper Magazine for storing fixed Ammunition & Commissary's Stores being much wanted by Col. Flower, C. G. M. S., you will be pleased to direct the Barrack Master of this City to provide & deliver into Colonel Flower's Possession some Store or Place convenient for the Purpose.

I have the Honour to be
your very obed't Serv't,
RICHARD PETERS, Secr'y.

—

Pennsylvania War Office, 20 June, 1777.

We beg leave to refer the above application to the Honble Executive Committee.

By order of the Board,
RICH'D BACHE, Chairman.

Directed,
On public Service, Honble Board of War, State of Pennsylvania.

J. Whilldin & H. Hand to Robert Morris, 1777.

Cape May, June 21, 1777.

Dear Sir,

Yesterday there came two Gentlemen here from Philadelphia, and there appearing some cause of Suspicion, were taken care of by the Militia; and this day Examined by the Justices, when it appeared by the Oath of Mr. Thomas Hand, that they applyed to him to assist them in getting on Board a Man of War. And Sundrey papers being found upon them we apprehend they are prisoners of War, and have made their escape from Philadelphia—and say their Names are Charles Cook and Allen Maddison; but by their Papers and Confession on a stricter examination, Confess their names are Allen Cameron and Charles Cook—the former of which having made his escape out of your Prison by heaving himself out of the window. The Prisoners are in Custody, and we wait your Orders to know what further shall be done with them. The contents of which

Letters and other particulars we refer you to the Bearer hereof, Mr. Jonathan Leaming.

We are Sir, with great truth and
regard, your most Obdt Humble Servts,

JAMES WHILLDIN,
HENRY HAND.

Directed.

To The Hon'ble Robert Morris, Esq., President of the Board War, Philadelphia

℞ favour of Jonathan Leaming, Esq.

Alan Cameron to Dr. Thomas Bond, 1777.

Sir,

No doubt you must before this reaches have heard of my escape from there, and I am very sorry to inform you that I am unfortunate enough to fall into the hands of the Cape May Committee. However it's my fate, and altho' you and I differ widely in political sentiments, yet as there is a few British Ships in sight who have on Board several persons of Consequence belonging to this place, whom the Committee seems anxious to have exchanged, I Beg leave to request that you will use your interest with your acquaintances in Congress, to allow those in authority here to Exchange me for one of those whom they want from the Ships of War. The Bearer goes purposely wth letters concerning me and another Gentlemen who was taken with me. In complying wth the above request you will unutterably oblige,

Sir, Your very Humble Servant,

ALAN CAMERON.

Cape May, 21st June, 1777.

Directed,

To Doctor Thomas Bond, Philadelphia.

General Orders, May 9 to June 21, 1777.

May 9th, 1777.

The General has receiv'd the proceedings of the Court Martial appointed on the 29th day of April last; he does not by any means approve of the Sentence of the Court on Capt Long; he waves giving his reasons, as that (together with the proceedings on the Trial of Lieut't Clark, Lieut't Ellis, Lieut't Richardson, & Israel Aston, a private, & of which he approves,) will be laid before the Honble Continental Congress.

All the Troops now in this Town to march to Bristol, & such other places as they were ordered to by the Orders of the 24th of April last.

May 10th, 1777.

It is Genl Schuyler's Orders that the City Guards receive Rations only for the men that are on actual Duty every Day.

Capt Yates is excus'd sitting on the present Court Martial, & the Adjutant of the Day is to warn another officer in his place.

Sir,

The Committee of Fifty having requested the General to order a party of Troops to aid them in enforcing a Resolve of the Pennsylvania board of War, respecting the removal of Provisions from this City; The Genl desires you will direct a Sub., two Serj^ts, & twenty Privates to repair to the Drawbridge in Front Street, at 2 o'Clock this afternoon, there to take the directions of a Sub-Committee of the Committee of Fifty.

By order of

GENERAL SCHUYLER.

To the Town Major.

May 11th, 1777.

A Serj^t, Corpor^l & 12 men from the Barracks to mount the New Goal Guard immediately.

May 12th, 1777.

A Regimental Court Martial for the Corps of City Guards to sit To-morrow morning at 10 o'Clock. The North^n District to furnish 2 Sub^ns, the middle District 1 Captn & 1 Subalt., & the Southern District 1 Subal^n.

Only three morning reports have been given in yesterday: Genl. Schuyler finds it necessary to repeat his Orders, That every Officer in Town should send every morning to the Town Major by 8 o'clock, a return of what officers & men are in Town, distinguishing those that are Sick from those which are fit for Duty. And as the variety of Forms in which the morning reports have been made renders the making a general return inconvenient, They are all for the future to be made in the Form following:

A morning Report of the Regiment, Commanded by & quartered in Philadelphia, 1777.

	Colonels.	Lt. Colonels.	Major.	Chaplain.	Adjutant.	Qr. Master.	Surgeons.	Mates.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Serjants.	Dr. & Fife.	Rank & File.	Whereof Sick.	Whereof Prison.

1 in Arrest. 2 Sick, with all other casualties.

Captn Mitchell, of the 12th Virginia Reg^t, being indispos'd, the Adjutant of the Day is to warn another officer in his place; & also another in the stead of Cap^n Welsh who has obtained Genl Schuyler's leave of absence.

A Serj^t & 12 men are to repair to the State house at 2 o'Clock this afternoon, & receive the directions of Captn Watkinson, Assis't Comm^y General.

One Subalt^n, 1 Serj^t, 1 Corpo^l, & 20 men to mount Guard this Evening, at the Continental Hospital in the bettering House, & receive directions from Dr. Shippen, jun^r. This Guard to be duly reliev'd till further orders.

May 13th, 1777.

Captn Alexander being excused from attending the Genl Court Martial, the Adjutant of the Day is to warn another member in his place.

A Captn, 2 Sub^{ns}, 2 Serj^{ts}, 2 Corp^{ls}, 2 Drummers & 50 men are to Parade immediately, in order to escort some artillery & ammunition to Camp. The Captn to receive his orders from Coll^{l} Flowers.

The Genl Court Martial now sitting is to proceed immediately to the Trial of Captn Bower of Major Ottendorf's Corps.

May 14th, 1777.

May 15th, 1777.

Genl. Schuyler has received a report of the proceedings of the Genl Court Martial ordered on the 29th day of April; approves thereof, & confirms the sentence pronounced by it against Captain Nelson of the 9th Pennsyl^{a} Reg^{t}, That he be Cashier'd & refund the money he receiv'd for recruiting, & account with the Coll^{l} forthwith for misapplying money entrusted with him to recruit, and for transferring men raised from one corps to another, to the Prejudice of good order & military Discipline.

The Genl. also approves of the proceedings respecting James Parson, James Quin, Robert Brooks, & Isaac Lemon, Privates in Captn Nelson's independent Company, & orders that they join their respective Corps, & put under Stoppage, agreeable to the directions of the Court Martial.

The Genl. pardons Patrick McDaniel, a Private, sentenced to receive 50 lashes on the bare back for insulting Captn Howell.

The Genl. directs that the sentences against John Connolly, Private in the 11th Pennsyl^{a} Reg^{t}, to receive 100 lashes, John Withrington, Private of the 7th Pennsyl^{a} Reg^{t}, for deserting & reinlisting, be immediately inflicted, & the convicts join their respective corps, William Sutta, of Coll. Patton's Reg^{t}, to be put under stoppage for half a month's pay, for absenting himself from Duty.

May 16th, 1777.

One hundred and fifty men, the best armed & cloathed of the Continental Troops under the command of a Major, with 2 Capt^{ns}, 4 Sub^{ns}, 4 Serj^{ts}, 4 Corp^{ls}, 3 Drum^{rs}, & 3 Fifers, to Parade immediately, & continue in the Barracks, ready to turn out at a moment's warning.

May 17th, 1777.

A Gen[l] Court Martial to convene on Monday morning next at 10 o'clock, at the Barracks, for the Trial of John Lee alias John Brown, who is charg'd with acting inimically & traitorously against the United States of America.

Coll[l] MOYLAN, Presid't.

Coll[l]	Patton,	Members.	Capt[n] Sample,
L[t] Coll[l]	Gurney,		Joseph Howell,
Major	Williams,		John McGowen,
Capt[n]	Dorsey,		Cross,
	Redman,		Mears,
	Keen,		Porterfield.

Major LIVINGSTON, Judge Advocate.

Lieut[t] George Clark of the 7th Pennsyl[a] Reg[t], & Lieut[t] Richardson of the 12th Virginia Reg[t], who were sentenc'd to be Cashier'd by a Gen[l] Court Martial are to be releas'd.

May 18th, 1777.

May 19th, 1777.

A Gen[l] Court Martial to be compos'd of Officers of the City Guard, to set To-morrow morn'g at 10 o'clock in the Court-house for the Trial of Lieut[t] Bunbury of the City Guards, confin'd for being drunk on Duty & quitting his Guard.

Major NICOLA, Presid't.

Capt[n]	Honey,	Members.	Capt[n] Campbell,
"	Simpson,		" McMullen,
"	Barrett,		L[t] Willport,
L[t]	Boehm,		L[t] Weaver,
L[t]	Pearson,		L[t] Shute,
2d L[t]	Epple,		2d L[t] Wynne.

JAMES SHARSWOOD, Judge Advocate.

May 20th, 1777.

Gen[l] Schuyler approves of the proceeding of the Gen[l] Court Martial of which Major Nicola was Presid[t], & Orders the Sentence against Lieut[t] Bunbury of the City Guards to take place that he be suspended from Pay & Command for the space of 14 Days; after the expiration of that Time to receive Pay as before & be reinstated in his Command.

May 21st, 1777.

Captn Bower of Major Ottendorfs Corps is releas'd from Confinement. Genl Schuyler has receiv'd the proceedings of the Court Martial appointed on the 17th Inst. He deems it incumbent on him to lay them before the Honble Continental Congress, which he will have the Honor to do this Day.

As several of the Gentlemen who compos'd the Court Martial are under marching Orders to Join their Corps. The Genl thanks the Court for their Services & Disolves them.

A Serj^t, Corp^l & 12 men to Parade To-morrow morn'g at 6 o'clock in order to escort some British Prisoners of War to Lancaster, each officer & man to be provided with 3 rounds of Ammunition & to draw 3 Days Provision.

A General Court Martial to sit To-morrow morn'g at 10 o'clock in the Barracks, for the Trial of all Prisoners confin'd for Military Crimes in the Goal or Guard-house. The Adjutant of the Day to warn a Presid^t, Members, & Judge Advocate, of such officers as are in Town & not under immediate marching Orders.

May 22d, 1777.

Major Ransalear, Genl Schuylers Aid de Camp, informs me that the Board of War have order'd the escort for the Prisoners of War to be reinforc'd with 1 Sub^n, 1 Drum^r, & 8 Men.

Whereas notwithstanding the most pointed Orders that the Troops arriving in this Town, should leave it with the greatest expedition & repair to Bristol, many of them have been unnecessarily delay'd, & some detain'd several hours after embarkation by their Officers absence. The Genl therefore Orders that the D. Q. M. Genl will in future make immediate report to him of the Names of all Officers who shall not join their respective Detachments within half an hour after they are ready for embarkation.

May 23d, 1777.

Two Guards each consist'g of a Serj^t, Corp^l & 12 Men to Parade immediately & repair to the State-house Yard, where they will receive Orders from Coll^l Flowers for escorting some Waggons.

May 24th, 1777.

May 25th, 1777.

A Return from all the Troops in Town without any exception to be immediately made to the Town Major, that he may draw up a general return by 12 o'clock to be sent to his Excellency Genl Washington.

May 26th, 1777.

12 Officers, 2 Serjts, 2 Corps, & 50 Men to attend with Side Arms at the State-house, at 10 o'clock this morning.

The Genl Court Martial now sitting, of which Lieut Collo Nagle is Presidt, will proceed this morning to the Trial of Thos Wm Collins,* confin'd in the new Goal on suspicion of treasonable practices against the United States. The Town Major will wait on the Pennsylvania State Board of War to know what Evidence they have in support of the Charge against Collins that the same may be produc'd before the Court. When the Trial of Collins is finish'd, that of Mr. Wm Compton of this City to come on. The Town Major will lay his Crime & produce the Evidence before the Court.

When many of the Troops rais'd for the Defence of American Liberty were through want of Blankets render'd incapable of taking the Field, Genl Schuyler in order to procure an article so indispensibly necessary, applied for the aid of the board of War of this State, & by their authority a voluntary contribution was recommended to the Inhabitants of the several Cities & Counties of this State agreable to an assessment which was propos'd for that purpose, had this recommendation been attended to by all the Inhabitants with equal respect, a present supply would long since have been obtain'd, but many pleading scruples of Conscience withheld their Quotas. The Genl finds himself oblig'd by the Laws of necessity & the great Duties which he owes to his Country, to have recourse to measures which on occasions less extraordinary he would studiously avoid. There are however circumstances which must reconcile this Expedient to every benevolent mind. The Army will suffer unless Blankets are immediately procur'd. In no other way can they be obtain'd. They will be paid for on a just valuation, & those who from Conscientious Scruples, have not & cannot voluntarily contribute, will now be only put upon a footing with the other members of the Community who have already bore their share of this Burthen.

Several of the Citizens by the directions of the board of War of this State, will accompany the Military Gentlemen in this Service & point out to them the Persons who have not yet furnish'd any Blankets.

The Officers will enter the Houses of such Persons & take as many Blankets out of each as it contains Beds, keeping an account of each Persons name & the number of Blankets taken from him.

The return to be made to the Town Major & the Blankets to be delivered to the Cloathier Genl, taking his receipt therefor.

The Officers will be particularly attentive that no more force is used than what is barely necessary for the purpose & that no Inhabitant be injured in his Person. The Soldiers to be strictly inhibited from making use of any rude or indecent expressions, & not more than one Soldier with a Commission'd Officer, & one of the Citizens appointed to attend this Service, to enter any of the Houses from

* See page 281.

which Blankets are to be taken unless resistance which is not to be expected may render more force necessary.

The Guard on the Gen[l] Hospital at the bettering-house to be augmented to 30 men & continued till further orders. The Officers to observe the directions given by the Director General.

May 27th, 1777.

A Court of enquiry consisting of Five Field Officers & Capt[ns], to sit at 11 o'clock this morning & examine whether Samuel Elphinston, Midshipman, & James Horn, Mate in his Brittanic Majesty's service, & ————, Master of a British Merchant Ship are guilty of a breach of Parole, by withdrawing themselves from this City for the space of eight Days with a view of going to the Enemy, before they had sign'd their Paroles. The Adjutant of the Day to warn such Officers as can be immediately assembled.

May 31st, 1777.

The Gen[l] Court Martial of which Lieu[t] Coll[l] Nagle is Presid[t] is dissolved. Whenever any noncommission'd Officers, or private men are confin'd for Crimes which do not deserve the notice of a Gen[l] Court Martial, the Officer commanding the Corps, is immediately to order a Regimental Court Martial for their Trial; should the number of Officers present, belonging to the Corps not be sufficient to form a Court, the Officer commanding in the Barracks is to Order a Garrison Court Martial.

The Officers employ'd in collecting Blankets are to be furnish'd with such a number of men as may be thought necessary to prosecute the business with Effect, not exceeding 10 to an Officer.

The Adjutant of the Day is desir'd to enquire into a report made to the Town Major this morning by Adjut[ts] Boss & Irvin of a number of Maryland Troops, being in the Barracks under the Command of a Serj[t], & if true to order the Serj[t] to attend the Town Major immediately.

Standing Orders for the Garrison of Philad[a]. (printed.)

June 1st, 1777.

Whereas a great waste of Ammunition is made by the Soldiers wantonly firing in & about this City, the Gen[l] desires the Officers to be carefull to prevent it for the future by making immediate examples of offenders.

A Sub[n] Officer is order'd to take up his Quarters at the Convalescent Hospital, who will have the Direction of the Guard plac'd there, & by no means to suffer the Convalescents to absent them-

selves by Day or Night, & is to order such exercise as the Director General shall prescribe for the Convalescents.

A Serj^{t}, Copor^{l} & 12 men to Parade immediately & march to the State-house Yard to escort a Waggon to Camp.

The Adjut^{t} of the Day or Week is to keep a regular Roster of all the Officers in the Garrison, which Roster is always to be given to the relieving Adjutant.

The Adjut^{t} of the Week is to appoint a Field Officer where there are four in Garrison, when not, a Captn to be Officer of the Day, agreable to the 9th article of the Stand'g Orders of the Garrison.

The Adjut^{t} of each Corps, or Officer acting as such, is to return to the Adjut^{t} of the Day, the Name & Rank of every Officer of his Corps that is warn'd for any Duty, specifying the Duty. And the Adjut^{t} of the Week is daily to make a general return to the Town Major.

June 2^{d}, 1777.

June 3^{d}, 1777.

The Genl is sorry to observe so great a number of Officers in Town at a Time when their presence is absolutely necessary with the Army, as an attack is hourly expected from the Enemy, Those Officers who have not leave of absence on pressing business or on the recruiting service, are order'd immediately to Join their respective Battalions.

Isaac Burghaut, Soldier of the 11th P. R., to receive 500 lashes on his bare back for repeated Desertion, Defrauding the Public & reinlisting.

Francis Ranhir, Soldier in Cap^{tn} Bunner's Comp'y; & German Batt^{n}, to receive 200 lashes on his bare back, for Desertion & Defrauding the Public.

John Haines, a Soldier of Coll^{o} Patton's Regt.

William De Normandie, Soldier in Captn Beath's Comp'y, and 6th P. R.

Francis Jamison, Soldier in the 1st Reg^{t}; William Dougherty, a Soldier of Coll^{o} Wood's Reg^{t}, & Conard Rough, a Soldier in Capt Bunner's Comp'y, & German Batt^{n}, to be discharged from Confinement, & Join their respective Regiments.

May 29th, 1777.

All such Officers & Soldiers as are under Orders to March To morrow, are not to be put on any Duty; such as are already on Duty are to be immediately relieved.

Some Officers having neglected to make their Morning returns,

because they are under marching orders;—All returns ordered, are to be made tho' the Corps or Party is to march in one hour after.

There having been a mistake made in Yesterday's Orders relative to the Prisoners—Isaac Burghaut is acquitted, & to join one of the Pennsyl^a Batt^ns, till he can be sent to the 11th Pennsyl^a Batt^n.

Conrad Rough, of the German Batt^n, is to receive 300 lashes, & be sent to his Reg^t the 1st opportunity.

Two Officers must attend at the Town Majors to morrow Morning, at 8 o'Clock, to prosecute the business of Collecting Blankets.

May 30th, 1777.

The General Court Martial, now sitting, of which Lieut^t Coll^l Naglee is Presed^t, will proceed to the Trial of Ensign John Coke, put in arrest by Capt James Long, for abusive language, & ungentleman-like behaviour.

A field Officer, where there are a sufficient number in the Garrison, when not a Captain, to remain in the Barracks to do the duties of Officer of the Day.

Every Officer, commissioned or noncommissioned, commanding a Guard, is to make a report thereof every morning to the Officer of the Day, specifying the number of the Guard, Sentries by Day & Night, Prisoners under their care, What Companies & Corps they belong to, by whom confin'd, Crimes, whether try'd or not; whether they have rec'd any part of their punishment, & what extraordinary may have happened during the Guard.

The Officer of the Day to make a Genl report to the General every Morning.

Such Troops as are under marching Orders, are in future excus'd from Duty the Day before they march.

The Guards mounted by the City Guards, are for the future to be relieved every morning at 8 o'Clock.

Eight Officers to attend at the Town Major's to morrow morning, at 8 o'Clock; the Adjutant of the Day to report to the Town Major such Adjutants as do not attend to receive Orders. The Adjutants of the different Corps to report to the Town Major such officers as are warn'd for this duty, that he may inform the Genl of such as do not attend.

Genl Schuyler is inform'd that the Officers who collected the Blankets Yesterday, were guilty of many irregularities; desires they may be more circumspect in future.

Three Men to be added to the Court house Guard, & a Sentry posted at Messrs Mease & Caldwell's Store.

Genl Schuyler being out of Town, the Command devolves on Gen^al Arnold.

Twelve Officers to attend Genl Arnold To morrow Morning at 8 o'Clock.

The Officer commanding in the Barracks is desir'd to select some

whose Discretion will prevent any irregularities in the business of Collecting Blankets.

May 28th.

Genl Schuyler has receiv'd and approved of the Proceedings of the Gen. Court Martial appointed by the Genl Orders of the 21st Inst, & Orders the following punishments to be inflicted to morrow morning, agreeable to the Sentence of said Court:

Simon Francis, a Soldier in Captn George Jenkin's Comp'y, 2d P. R., & Andrew Nathers, a Soldier in Captn Irvine's Comp'y, & 9th P. R.—Each to receive 500 Lashes for Desertion, reinlisting, Defrauding the United States, & for Perjuring themselves.

William Hall, a Soldier in Captn Lang's Comp'y of the 10th P. R., to receive 300 lashes on his bare back, & to be drum'd out of the Regt for Deserting repeatedly.

Francis Galliger, a Soldier in Captn Tolbert's Comp'y, 2nd P. R., to receive 600 lashes on his bare back, for deserting twice, reinlisting twice, Defrauding the Public, & twice Perjuring himself;—His Pay to be stop'd; to pay what Bounty he may have receiv'd from the Officer who enlisted him last, & afterwards to be return'd to the 2nd P. R.

Israel Ashton, a Soldier in Captn Grubb's Comp'y, Colle Patton's Regt, Ordered to be discharged from Confinement, & Join his Company.

William Day, a Soldier in Captn Smith's Comp'y, 4th P. R., to receive 150 lashes on his bare back, well laid on, for Desertion, & Defrauding the United States.

John Shniver, a Soldier in Colll Proctor's Regt, to receive 500 Lashes on his bare back, well laid on, for Desertion, reinlisting twice, perjuring himself, & for twice Defrauding the United States. His pay to be stop'd; to repay whatever Bounty he receiv'd from Lieut Patton, & then to be returned to Colle Proctor's Regt.

William Dougherty, a Soldier in Colle Wood's Regt, Ordered to be discharged, & to be returned to the 3d P. R.

William Clark, a Soldier in Captn Smith's Comp'y, 7th M. R., to receive 300 lashes on his bare back, well laid on, for twice Desertion & Defrauding the Public.

Joseph Brooks, a Soldier in Captn Henderson's Comp'y, 9th P. R., to receive 300 lashes on his bare back, for Desertion, and twice Defrauding the Public.

A Court of Enquiry is order'd to be summoned to sit at the usual place, to morrow morning, to examine into the Conduct of Captn Cruse, or any other prisoner brought before them.

A Genl Court Martial, of which is Presdt, is ordered to sit to morrow, for the Trial of such Prisoners as are brought before them.

Three Subs, 5 Serjts, 8 Corporals, 3 Drums, & 113 Men to mount Guard at 6 this afternoon, to the following Detail, Viz:

Statehouse,	1 Sub^{n},	2 Serj^{ts},	3 Corp^{ls},	1 Dr^{r},	54 Men to detatch,
Courthouse,	1	1	1	1	24 to new Goal, 1 Sj^{t}, 1 Corp^{l}, 12 Men,
Frigates,	1	1	2	1	17
New Magazine,		1	1		12 To Detach a Cor^{pl}, & 8 Men,
Old Ditto			1		6 to the Faggots,
	3	6	8	3	113

An Orderly Serj^{t} to be sent Tomorrow Morning at 7 o'clock to Major Genl Arnolds & others to the Town Major.

NB. There are Arms for the men in all of the above guards.

The officers who have not compleated the business of collecting Blankets in the Wards assign'd them, are to attend tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock at the Town Majors. Such Officers as have finish'd in their Wards must make immediate returns to the Town Major.

June 4th 1777.

The City Guards being dismiss'd & a new Corps to be rais'd under the Title of Guards for the Continental Stores & Magazines, & to consist of 4 Companies each of 1 Captn, 2 Lieut^{ts}, 2 Ensigns, 8 Serj^{ts}, 8 Corp^{ls}, & 120 Men, the following officers were this day appointed by the Continental Board of War.

1

Captn George Honey,
1st Lieu^{t} Fredric Wollpert,
2^{d} Lieu^{t} George Epple,
1st Ens^{n} Charles Snyder,
2^{d} Ens^{n} George Fisler,

2

Captn John Campbell,
1st Lieu^{t} Thomas Wind,
2^{d} Lieu^{t} Henry Snyder,
1st Ens^{n} Conrad Deweetor,
2^{d} Ens^{n} James Chapman,
Richard Barry, Adjutant,

3

Captn Richard Barrett,
1st Lieu^{t} Enoch Walsh,
2^{d} Lieu^{t} John Spence,
1st Ens^{n},
2^{d} Ens^{n},

4

Captn Thomas Bradford,
1st Lieu^{t} Nicholas Weaver,
2^{d} Lieu^{t} Wm C. Brandford,
1st Ens^{n} Jacob Clause,
2^{d} Ens^{n} Martin Humphries,
Conrad Slemer Serj^{t} Major.

June 5th, 1777.

The Officer commanding any Corps or Detachment marching out of this City is to make a return immediately before he marches to the town Major.

A Serj^{t}, Corp^{l} & 12 Men to Parade immediately & march to the Statehouse Yard to escort some Wagons to Prince Town.

One Sub^{n}, 1 Serj^{t}, 1 Corpl, 1 Drum^{r} & 25 Men to Parade tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock & march to the Statehouse Yard to Escort some cannons & Waggons to Head-Quarters.

The above Escorts to consist of such Men as are ready to march to Camp.

A Corporal & 4 Men to Parade immediately & march to Hultzmers Continental Stables to Escort Genl Mifflin's baggage to Head-Quarters.

June 6th, 1777.

Major Benezet being Order'd to his Command, Lieu^t Coll. Gurney is to sit as Presid^t of the gen^l Court Martial, which is to try the two officers confined by Lieu^t Coll. Craig.

The Court of Enquiry of which Major Dunner is Presid^t having examin'd the conduct of Captn Cruse on the charge brought against him by John Thornton, are of opinion, that Captn Cruse acted in the line of his duty, & that the Complaint ought to be dismiss'd as frivolous & groundless. The Court is dissolv'd.

June 7th, 1777.
June 8th, 1777.
June 9th, 1777.
June 10th, 1777. Maj^r Genl Mifflin, Com^r.
June 11th, 1777.

A Return must be made immediately to Genl Mifflin from every Corps or detachment in this Garrison without exception, specifying the strength and forwardness thereof to go to Camp, respecting Cloathing, Arms, &c.

A Corp^l & 4 Men to be fix'd at each of the Ferries near this City with orders to suffer no person to pass these Ferries from the Town without passes sign'd by a Genl officer, The president of the Board of War of this State, or Major Lewis Nicola. Market People only excepted.

June 12th, 1777.

Genl Arnold approves of the proceedings of the late gen^l Court Martial & orders the Sentences to be Executed.

The Guards to be taken from all the Ferries near this City & passing restor'd to the footing it was on before yesterday's Orders.

General orders, 13th June, 1777.

All the Continental Troops in this City are to be Paraded on the Common near Burn's Tavern at 10 o'clock this Morning by their respective Officers, with such arms and accoutrements as they have receiv'd. This measure is absolutely necessary & must be strictly attended to, the Genl being of opinion that the troops will soon be call'd to action, as the Enemy by Letters from his Excellency Genl Washington, are this day expected to be in motion.

The Commissary General of Artilery stores, or his Deputy, to

order returns to be made immediately at Head Quarters in this City, of all Field Artillery fit for service in this Port, the quantity of fix'd Ammunition, &c. &c.

The Commissary Genl of provisions to make returns of his Stores in this City that the overplus if any may be remov'd

June 14th, 1777.
June 15th, 1777.
June 16th, 1777.

The Detachment of the first Maryland Regt, must parade Tomorrow morning at 5 o'clock, & march to the New Goal in order to Escort some prisoners to York Town in this State; the instructions & letter to the Committee will be left at the Gaol & also two Waggons will be ready to carry the Officers and Prisoners Baggage.

June 17th, 1777.

Major Gen'l Gates Commander,

One Captn, 1 Subn, 2 Serjts, 2 Corpls, 2 Drumrs & 40 Men to Parade at 7 o'clock Tomorrow morning & march immediately to the Statehouse, so as to be there by 8, in order to Escort some Waggons to Camp.

June 18th, 1777.

A Corporal & 6 Men to Parade immediately & march to General Mifflin's Quarters in order to escort his baggage to Camp.

Two Guards each to consist of 1 Subn, 1 Serjt, 1 Corpl, 1 Drumr, & 20 Men to be ready in the Statehouse Yard Tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock, to Escort some Waggons to Camp.

The Officers receive their instructions from Captn Watkins,

June, 19th 1777.
June, 20th 1777.
June, 21st 1777.

Major Genl Armstrong, Commander.

JAMES LANG TO BOARD OF WAR OF PENNSYLVANIA, 1777.

Lancaster June 22nd, 1777.

Sir,

Tis with much concern I at present trouble you, Because the Information this contains is very Disagreeable, I here perceive every means of Depreciating the paper currency of the States practised, & Torryism holding up its head with impunity, A Doubloon was sold yesterday to a certain Paul Zantzinger for 80£, A half joe sells at

between £15 & 20£, a Guinea for £6 & upwards, & a Dollar for upwards of £1 10s. Depreciating is really become a trade here and even the friends of Liberty are induced, nay almost Necessitated to adopt the base measure. The Menonists refuse to sell their produce unless for hard cash & when they bring any market stuff to town will carry it from house to house & sell it very low for hard cash but will carry it home again sooner than sell it for Congress Currency, I am Informed this is done every market day, I have spoke with severall Inhabitants who are all convinced of the Destructive tendency of these Practices but even Mr. Atlee says his Endeavours to prevent them have hitherto been vain, because he was not properly supported in the steps he took, I shall refer you to Capt. Weaver for further particulars.

Now Sir, conceiving it Absolutely Necessary that some steps be immediately taken to stop these pernicious practices, I shall therefore Humbly offer my opinion concerning a way that I believe would effect that purpose Let a trusty prudent yet spirited person who has no connections here be appointed to reside here & take Cognizance of all these matters. Let him cause a party of soldiers seize any person accused of Depreciating, or refusing the Congress Currency, whether in buying or selling. Let him immediately after seizing such person, take an inventory of the persons estate Real & personal & transmit the Inventary to any board the Law might Direct & Let the person so seized be immediately sent to the State prison there to remain without bail, till tryed for misprision of treason or call it Felony, if judged proper & Let the Punishment ordered be adequate to the crime, I confess the measure looks violent but if something equally so is not immediately Done, I am firmly persuaded the cause will be materially hurt, I am ordered by a Court of enquiry held here on the 19th Inst., of which I was President to transmit the oppinion of the Court to you, together with the proceedings that it may be laid before the board.

I am with

Due respect & esteem Sir,

most Obedient Servt

JAS. LANG.

P. S. If our prisoners were well used there might be policy in allowing them some advance on their gold.

Directed,

Mr. Jacob S. Howell, Secretary to the Pennsylª Board of War.

JAMES OLD TO BOARD OF WAR, 1777.

Gentlemen,

You ordered me to write you that when the militia Classes are going out, I should let you know, and as they are now to march and severall of my hands in the 1st & 2nd Class and the others are all in confusion, so that I cannot go on with the works as I ought and shall not be able to fulfill the contract I made with you for shott without your protection for such necessary hands as I want, therefere I have sent the bearer on purpose to desire you will write to the Lieutenant of the County to permit me to keep such hands as are necessary, a list of which the bearer can inform you, I have not mentioned their names as hands at Iron Works, are very often changed and not always to be depended upon, so I have mentioned only the number of such as are absolutely necessary which if I cannot keep. I shall be obliged to stop the Furnace, and cannot fullfill your contract.

I am

Gentlemen,

Your most Humble Servt

JAMES OLD.

Reading Furnace
22 June, 1777.

Directed,

To the Hon'ble Board of War for the State of Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania War Office
26th June, 1777.

Mr. James Old has orders from this Board to furnish a very large quantity of Double headed shot for the use of the Fleet, &c.

RICH. BACHE, Chairman.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1777.

War Office, June 23d, 1777.

Sir,

The Bearer Capt. Watkins has an order from Genl. Gates to take possession of the Loganian Library* for a store or magazine to deposit & deliver out fixed Ammunition for the use of the Army. I was averse to disturbing the old volumes which have been so long in a very peaceful slumber on the shelves, they consist of such Books as are of very little use to the Public a Capacity to read them being confined to a very few. But Mr. Watkins represents that he cannot by any means procure another place suitable for his purpose & is of opinion that our affairs will suffer exceedingly, unless a Magazine is immediately opened. I therefore have advised him to get cases made for the Books, & deposit them in some safe place, first giving notice to the trustees of the Library that if they chose to take care of them they will be delivered to them or their order. When the service requires it, private property must yield to public Necessity, but if any other place could have been procured, it had been much better. Capt. Watkins, says you seemed to be averse to his having the building & I thought it best to represent the matter to you & let him inform you of the urgency of the Business that nothing might be done against your consent, as all possible Harmony should be cultivated between the Continental Officers & those concerned in the Administration of the affairs of each particular State.

I have the honour to be

with the greatest Respect

your very obedt Servt

RICHARD PETERS, Sec.

Directed.

On Public Service.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton jr. Esq., President & Commander in Chief of the State of Pennsylvania.

* This was the old building which then stood in the neighborhood of 6th & George, (now Sansom St.)

Opinion of Thomas McKean, 1777.

Case.

A freeholder of Pennsylvania, in which State he was an Inhabitant passes the river Delaware and *joins the enemies* of the said State being in New Jersey, New York, & elsewhere, and adheres to them: He is arrested, tried, convicted & attainted of Treason in the State of New York.

1st Question. Can he legally allege, that he is not a subject of, nor owes allegiance to New York?

2nd Question. How would such attainder affect his estate, in Pennsylvania?

3d. Is there any process, that can issue by the laws of Pennsylvania, for outlawing a person, who will not appear, or by what means can such a person's estate be forfeited?

Answer 1mo—The freeholder of Pennsylvania, within the description in the above case, cannot legally allege, that he is not a subject of the State of New York. For even an Alien, who comes there at first peaceably, has a right to the protection of the laws of the said State, and in return he owes a local Allegiance to it.

2do. Such an Attainder would not, in my opinion, affect his estate in Pennsylvania, because, first, Treason may be a different thing and differently punished, in New York, from Pennsylvania; and secondly, a traitor should be tried by a jury of the County, in which the overt act of treason was committed.

3do. By the late Act of Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, intitled, "An Act declaring what shall be treason, &c.," *joining the armies* of the enemies of sd Commonwealth is constituted treason; and the Enemies of the State of New York, are the enemies of Pennsylvania: And by the act of Assembly of sd commonwealth, intitled, "An Act to revive and put in force such, & so much of the late laws of the Province of Pennsylvania as is judged necessary to be in force, in this commonwealth, &c." The former acts of Assembly are declared to be in force, &c., (as therein mentioned); whereby the act made in the fourth year of George the First, for the advancement of justice is in force so far as relates to this question, Therefore, I am of opinion that the freeholder of Pennsylvania, committing the afsd crime may be indicted for it in the county where the fact was inchoate, or in which he resided, and that a capias may be issued against him, and if he cannot be found by the Sheriff of said county, he the sd Sheriff should make proclamation in the Quarter Sessions, &c., as by the sd Act is directed and the court upon nonappearance may proceed to attaint him, and in consequence, his whole estate within the commonwealth will be forfeited.

THOS. McKEAN.

Newark, June 23d, 1777.

THOMAS SEYMOUR TO WILLIAM BRADFORD, ESQ., 1777,

Philad^a, June 23d, 1777.

Dr Sir,

I have waited wth great Impatience, Expecting to receive the Ballance of my pay, and an order for my Rashings agreeable to my Rank; my not receiving the ballance of my pay nor an order for my Rashings, makes me take the Liberty to Trouble you wth these Lines, Begging you'll befriend me so much as to See me pay'd. I am now in Want & am left destitute Even of having one Dollar in Command, all the Gentlemen of the Board are Senseable I got my Sickness in the Service, I have a Large Doct^rs Bill to pay off, likewise many others for necessarys in the time of my Illness, as to my Expenses up & down the River last Winter & Spring will amount to Considerable more than half of my Rashings, the Gentlemen of the Naval Board knows well I have no Family nor home here to go too, but Intirely upon Expences, therefore desire my Situation might be Considered.

According to the Resolves of Congress & Council of Safety, a Commad^rs pay & Rank is the same as a Brigad^r Generals, Which is 125 Dollars & 12 Rashings agreeable to the Congress Books. I am, S^r, W^th Due Respect,

your most obedient Humble Serv't,

THOS. SEYMOUR.

Directed.

To William Bradford, Esq'r, Philadelphia.

COL. WALTER STEWART TO BOARD OF WAR OF PENN'A, 1777.

Camp at Billet, June 23d, 1777.

Dear Sir,

The Bearers hereof, Lieutenant Thomas Boyd and Lieutenant Joseph Brown Lee, have I find delivered in their Resignation on account of Lieutenant Thomas Johnson being promoted over their heads; these Gentlemen are both Old Lieu^ts, and are Esteem'd in the Regiment as good Officers, by no means inferior to Mr. Johnston. When Mr. Johnston (who was formerly a third Lieu^t in the Flying Camp) applied, it was for a first Lieutenancy, which was granted, but Imagine there must have been some mistake in appointing him 2nd first Lieutenant in the Regiment, over the heads of many Worthy first Lieutenants; I must request you will take the

trouble of Looking into the matter, as I should be sorry to loose these two Gentlemen, and

believe me to be y'rs sincerely,
WALTER STEWART.

Directed.

To Richard Bache, Esq'r, President of the Hon'ble Board of War for the State of Pennsylvania.

Offers of Protection by Proclamation of Gov. of Detroit, 1777.

Detroit, 24th June, 1777.

By virtue of the power and authority to me given by his Excellency Sr Guy Carlton, Knight of the Bath, Governor of the province of Quebec, General and Commander in chief, &c , &c., &c.

I assure all such as are inclined to withdraw themselves from the Tyranny and oppression of the rebel committees and take refuge in this Settlement or any of the posts commanded by his Majesty's Officers shall be humanely treated, shall be lodged and victualled, and such as are off. in arms and shall use them in defence of his majesty against rebels and Traitors till the extinction of this rebellion, shall receive pay adequate to their former stations in the rebel service, and all common men who shall serve during that period, shall receive his majesty's bounty of two hundred Acres of Land.

Given under my hand and seal,
HENRY HAMILTON, [Seal.]
Lieut. Gov. & Superintendant.

Copy.

Henry Fisher to Navy Board of Pennsylvania, 1777.

Lewistown, June 25, 1777.

Gentlemen,

When I wrote you last, which was on the 22d of this instant, I informed you that the ships was making up the Bay, but before my Express had been gone a half an hour, they all anchored above the Brandywine, and Remain there still—there is no more ships in sight at this time.

The Roebuck and the other ships Carry on a fine Stroke of trade with the inhabitants from the uper part of this County, and from

Long Neck upon the North side of Indian River, where they get all sorts of fresh Provisions and Fish and fowl together; in these two necks of land there is scarce one Whigg, and the officers has given out that, if the Militia should offer to hinder there trade, they will land five hundred Men from there ships, so that the torrys will Joine them with as many more, and they will Plunder the whole County. Mr George Jackson is comeing up, who will inform you better than I Can Write. There has Been a Certain Simon Kollock who Serv'd his time to Mr Jonathan Evans, Cooper, in your City, Sent on shore from the Roebuck with a Large Sum of Counterfit thirty Dollar Bills; he has inlisted near a hundred men from the two Necks above mention'd, and is gone Round to York in a Schooner to Joine the Rascally Crew. He, the said Kollock, left with the High Sheriff of our County a large sum of his Base Money, which the Sheriff has been buying up Cattle with, and employing others to Doe the like; we have detected some of them, and at Snew Hill they have taken up one of the Sheriffs Emmisaries, one Solomon Trust, and Confin'd him in Jail—they found upon him one hundred and thirty Dollar Bills all Counterfit—the sheriff is not taken yet, but I hope soon to hear he is; if we should be so happy as to take him I am Persuaded that he will bring in some of our Great men. This Gentlemen, is what may be Called Striking at the Very Foundation of our Liberty, and I must beg that you will make all the Interest with the Congress to have our Case taken under there serious Consideration, and grant us such Redress as they, in there Wisdom, shall think Proper; if they should take no notice of us, our State is gone, and the few friends to the American Cause in these parts must fall a sacrifice to Tyrants.

The Bearer hereof, Major Henry Neille, goes up to waite upon Congress with a Letter to that Honorable Boddy, Pointing out some of our Grevisnces, in hopes of Relief. Any assistance you can give him will Ever be Remembered by Your Most Humble Servant to Command.

HENRY FISHER.

P. S. If something is not done I am under some apprehentions that should the fleet Come in, I shall not be able to send the Express by land, for the Second horse is kept at Evan's, which is in the heart of the torrys, therefore you must have that nest Broke up.

I am yrs,

H. FISHER.

Directed,

To The Honorable, the State Navy Board, Philadelphia.

☞ Favour of Major Nielle.

Orders to the Militia to be Ready, 1777.

June 25th, 1777.

To Lieut^s of Lancaster, Berks, Northampton, Chester & Philad^a.

S^r,

I wrote to you by Express the 19th Ins^t, requesting that you would immediately order the 1st & 2nd Class of the Militia of your County to Camp—the information the Council then rec^d from his Excell^y Gen. Washington, respecting the intention of the Enemy, made that step absolutely necessary. I have now the pleasure to acquaint you that the Enemy—disappointed in their expectations of crossing the Delaware, and thereby lay waste our country—has made a very precipitate retreat from Somerset & Brunswick to Amboy; the spirited manner in which the Militia of New Jersey & of this State turned out, I have no doubt contributed greatly to influence the retreat of Gen. Howe. However they did not effect it without being greatly harassed by Gen. Washington, notwithstanding the secret manner in which they conducted their march. It gives the Council great uneasiness to be obliged at any time to call upon the Militia, but when our country is threatened with invasion by a powerful army & fleet, it then becomes absolutely necessary for them to step forth and defend every thing that is valuable—their lives, liberty, & property—this induced the Council to call upon them. It is nevertheless as much the duty of the Council to prevent every unnecessary trouble & expence to the good people of this State, while they are engaged in this just & necessary war, as possible, especially at this time, when their private concerns call for their greatest attention; they are, therefore, of opinion that the 2nd Class of the Militia of your county need not march to camp, as I ordered in my last, until they receive the express orders of Council for that purpose, but they are to hold themselves in perfect readyness lest the farther movement of the enemy should make it necessary to call upon them of a sudden, which may very possibly soon happen.

I am S^r,

your very Hum.

City of Philadelphia.—Two Classes ordered.

To the Lieutenants of the Counties.—Chester & Philadelphia.

Lancaster, Berks & Northampton.—To hold the first Class in readyness to march when called upon after this date of 25 June.

York, Cum. & Northampton.—No new orders—the former was to prepare one Class to march when ordered.

Westmoreland, Bedford.—No orders.

2 as it stand.—(& 3 with the word first class instead of 2nd.)

To Committee for driving off Stock, 1777.

In Council.

June 25, 1777.

Whereas, The Honorable House of Assembly having passed a number of Resolves on the 14th of this Inst, June, and among other things impowered the President, or Vice President in Council, to appoint a sufficient Number of Persons in the city of Philad^a, and the Counties of Philad^a, Bucks & Chester, to take in Charge, and drive off all kinds of Live Stock, whenever the approach of the Enemy shall make it necessary so to do. In consequence of said resolution, I therefore, with the advice of Council hereby impower & direct you, and each of you, to carry said Resolution into execution, by such ways and means as to you may appear most effectual, and make report of your proceedings therein to the Council, as soon as convenient after such removal, having regard to the Number and Marks of such stock, and to whom they belong—which you may so remove by virtue of said resolution—and the place where removed to, and for your service herein, as well as for that of those you may employ in the Execution of the business, reasonable allowances will be made.

Philadelphia, Chester, & Bucks.

John Bayley to President Wharton, 1777.

Donnegall Lancaster County, June ye 27th., 1777.

D^r. Sir,

I have been in a very poor state of health ever since I came Home, the cold and Cough I had when in Town, hath increased by the wet weather I had coming home, which hath put me in a Slow fever, but if it please God I get any better in health, I shall go to Town to the Council and give what assistance I can, the opposition given to the laws by the Dutch, at length hath Broken out into open Rebellion, they had threatened so much and bound themselves to each other, that any Constable that would Levy on their Goods for the fines impos'd by the Melitia Law the would Rebel against them, So that the Constable would not go without a guard of armed men, accordingly on the 25th. Instant Colonel Lowrey sent an Officer and six men with the Constable, by order of a Magistrate to Levy for the fines due by one Saml. Albright, who had got enteligence of their coming, and got together Twelve men and a number of women, Armed with Sithes Coulters, & Pitch forks the first stroke given struck one of the guard with a coulter, behind his back which split

his skul about 4 or 5 Inches, the rest of the guard thought they were all in danger of their Lives, were forced to fire on the rebels, and Shot three of the ringleaders, but having no more Amunition, but what first loaded their Pieces, and some had none at the first, was obliged to flee for their Lives till the would git Amunition, yesterday we got Evidence against the Twelve that were at the rescue, Like wise 23 more that were in League with them, we are obliged to keep the Melitia that were on marching orders, till we suppress this Rebelion, these three that are Shott are of these Consientious People menoneasts who Preten non resistance, and Persive Obediance, and there is about 15 or 20 more of the same sect in the publick Cabal, But I think the greatest part of that sect together with Zealous friends, are Secretly fomenting the whole.

Persuading these other silly People of the Dutch, that if they resisted and stand out that we are not able to put the Laws in execution against them. I think it would be advisable when these 12 are taken that were in the riot, Should be taken to Philadelphia Goal, for Lancaster Inhabitants for the most part as you may see, by their Opositions of the Laws, and having such a large number of the British Prisoners, Likewise such a large number of the Hessians, who are chiefly out amongs't those Disaffected Germans, your Excellencies advice in this would be of much service, Lietenant Galbraith, Colonel Lowrey, & the rest of they Field officers of his Battalion, and what few Magistrates are here, Get little rest night or day, endavouring to enforce the Laws, but I hope if we had those Twelve sent to Philad^a. and the Heads men of the others in opposition, put under Bail to answer the next Court, I think our affairs would go on afterwards with more regularity.

I have Sir, the honour of being
your excelencies sincere friend
and Humb^l Servt,
JOHN BAYLY.

Directed,
To His Excellency Thomas Warton, Commander and Chief in and over the State of Pensyl^a.

Lt. Jacob Morgan, to Pres't Wharton, 1777.

Reading, June ye 27th, 1777.

Sir,

I have received your Excellency's Orders of the 25th Instant, & being informed in the same that the Orders for the first Class of the Militia of this County are Countermanded that there is at Present no Necessity of their Marching. At the Same Time acquainting

your Excellency that we have had two Companys of the first Class in Readiness to march to morrow morning, And Likewise gave orders to the Second Class to be in Readiness to march when called upon, And the remainder of the first Class in great forwardness, but hoping that we will have them in Readiness to march any Time when called upon hereafter or when Occation shall Roquire.

I am Your Excellencys
most Obediant Hum^ble Servant,
JACOB MORGAN, Lieu^t.

Directed,
To his Excellency Thomas Wharton jun. President.

BARTREM GALBRAITH, LT. COL., TO PRES'T WHARTON, 1777.

Donegal, 27th June, 1777.

May it please your Excellency.

Sir—In consequence of your Sundry orders to me relative to the embodying & Marching the Militia of the County of Lancaster to Chester on Delaware, I have used my utmost efforts. I find in a General way that it must be substitutes chiefly who are to march from this County, and am unhappy in finding an Opposition in Various parts of it (as to putting the laws in execution) which I believe ow's to the backwardness of the leading People of the Borough of Lancaster; Notwithstanding I bro^t up Commissions, when last in Philad^a for them, not one yet Qualifyd; which is a means of preventing me from carrying the Militia Law into its proper force there as well as in the adjacent parts thereto. Such parts of the County as have Magistrates, I have made my application to them & have set the matter properly on foot. I'm under a needcessity of detaining such who I have as yet employ'd Substitutes, for the Protection of the Civil Authority untill I receive your further Instructions.

On the Twenty fifth Inst., James Bailey, Esq., one of ye Magistrates for this County, & who lives within the Neighbourhood of those Opposers reported to you by me when in Philad^a (upon application from me) proceeded to recover fines on delinquents for days of Exercise, The Constable declaring himself unwilling to Serve in that Capacity unless protected by a Guard of men wch was granted by Col^e Lowry, on request of the Magistrate; went to the House of Michael Albright, father of Samuel Albright, a person who was one of the delinquents (& had been summoned before, with others, as directed, but refused to appear and damning the Constable, saying

who made such Magistrates & such Laws,) the Constable reading to him his Execution & telling him that he must have Body or goods, & requested him to goe peaceably along to the Magistrate, dureing which conversation there assembled a number of Riotous persons to the amount of 12 or 13 (the constables guard was 6 men) when the said Samuel refused going, and at the same time desireing the guard to stand off, the first man who touched him should be a dead man; upon which the guard surrounded him, when one of those Roitous fellows who had assembled to his Assistance, struck one of the Guard with the Coulter of a Plough, & knocked him down (who died in a few hours) began the Fray.

The Guard wounded three of them badly, among which was Albright. The Magistrate proceeded, held an Inquest on the dead Body and the Jury found it murder—there is as yet but one of them taken, who is sent to Goal; the others are fled or secreated by their friends & not yet taken. Special Warrants are out & I'm determined to have them taken, as well as enforce the Law at all events, but will be obliged to goe slowly on for want of peace Officers. I have on the examination of the evidences on oath, on the Inquest, found the names of a number of people who were the first excitors of the present Opposition, against whom I expect to proceed immediately & have them bound over; I shall wait with patience your answer to this & expect a line of Instruction how to proceed. I'm in want of Cash & expect you'l send me Some, & am obliged to give most of the Substitutes £50 for the draught of two months. I have at the same time inclosed you the deposition of Thomas McArthur, a reputable man of Paxton Township, against one Davis, a Hatter who lives next door to the Sign of the Bare, in Market street, Philada. Sir, it is with regret I behold the people in general with us and among us, in that Carracter of Contractors, Qr Masters, &c., who are from every thing that appears, disaffected & cannot be entituled to the Carracter of friends to their Country, as conduct of this kind is productive of jealousys & doubts to many people of this State, I could wish that such matters were enquired into, in justice to the Continent, and for the future suppress such Villainies.

I have the honour to be your Excellency's
most obedient H'le Serv't,
BARTREM GALBRAITH,
Lieutenant L. C.

Directed,
To his Excellency Thomas Wharton,

Lt. Col. Bartrem Galbraith to Pres't Wharton, 1777.

Lancaster, 28th June, 1777.

May it please your Excellency,

Sir, I this moment have recd your letter of the 25th Inst., the tideings are very exceptable to me & will be to the generality of People no doubt. I have employ'd a Number of Substitutes & shall keep them in pay untill I apprehend the Villians discribed to you in Yesterday's letter; the want of Magistrates in Lancaster is the Greatest Loss I'm at, I hope your Excellency will take some measure in regard to that matter as well as Burgesses. I alone with a few Individuals, am become the Butt of the whole County, I have had many threatenings but paid no attention, & unless something spirited is don I know not whether I may be Safe, as they have began with so much Violence; the express waits & I rest,

Sir, your most obedient Humble Serv't,

BARTREM GALBRAITH, Lanc'r Co'ty.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq'r, Commander in Chief State of Pennsylvania.

Richard Bache to Committee of Safety, 1777.

Pennsylvania War Office, July 1st, 1777.

Sir,

Mr. Dundas being in want of a sum of money to pay off the Workmen that have been discharged from Billingsport, and there being no money in the hands of the Treasurer at present, we beg leave to refer him to the Executive Council, being with great respect in behalf of the board.

Sir

Your most Obed't Serv't,

RICHARD BACHE, Chairman.

Directed,

His Excell'y Thomas Wharton, Junr.

Lewis Nicola to ———, 1777.

July 2, 1777.

Sir,

A Deserter who came here yesterday morning having given some interesting intelligence, I think it my duty to communicate it to your Excellency & the Hon'ble Council.

John Warrel, a Private Sentinel in the 23d Reg^t of Foot in the King of Great Britains service, says, that he sailed from Spithead the 4th May last in a fleet of 170 sail, of which one was a line of battle ship, & 4 others Frigates & Sloops, the rest transports, containing, as was reported amongst the men, 8,000 British troops. One regiment newly raised in Ireland & cloathed in plain yellow, another raised in Scotland dressed in green, and a body of riflemen of about 250, under the command of Capt. Ferguson, who has invented a new kind of rifle that is loaded at the breech & was fired six times in a minute in presence of the king, the rest of the troops old corps & recruits for the regiments already here.

On the banks of Newfoundland they were met by an English Frigate, when 27 sail of the Fleet were detached for New York under convoy of a sloop of war, but does not know the destination of the rest of the fleet, (probably Quebec.) The detached part of the Fleet arrived at New York the 15th Instant, when he was draughted into the 23^d Reg^t, & was at Sommerset Courthouse. That on the retreat from Brunswick his Regiment was one of the last that marched, that they were ordered to set fire to a large white house in the skirts of the town which had been used as a Storehouse, (this probably was burned on account of some stores the enemy could not take away, & they did not choose should fall into our hands.) The general conversation amongst the men during the retreat was that they were intended to go up the North river.

The informant further says that a short time before he was pressed in London there had been two violent riots in London, during which the most violent resentment had been shewn against Lords Bute & North, who had been obliged to abscond. I am with respect your Excellencies & the Hon'ble Councils

Most humble & obedient
Servant,

LEWIS NICOLA.

President Wharton(?) to Congress, 1777.

In Council, July 8, 1777.

Gentlemen,

The Hon. Congress by a Resolve dated June 11, recommended that the Works intended to be erected at Billingsport, &c., should be carried into execution by Monsieur Du Coudray & Gen. Mifflin & the Executive Council of this State, and being desirous to have them finished as speedily as possible I request that you will please to move in Congress that the Troops lately arrived from Carolina may be employ'd to assist the Militia of this State & that of New Jersey in compleating the Plan, unless they can render more essential service to the United States elsewhere.

I have the Honor to be
with much respect,
gent'n,
yours, &c.

Directed,

To the Hon. the Delegates State Pennsyla., in Congress.

Exec. Council to Jas. Young & other Justices, 1777.

In Council, Philada., July 4, 1777.

Sir,

The Council finding it to be the desire of many of the true friends of liberty, that public rejoicings should commemorate this anniversary of the Independence of North America, and among other marks of festivity that the Citizens illuminate, yielded their countenance thereto, with a view to regulate the same & prevent disorders.

Accordingly they inserted a piece in the Evening-post of last night, recommending moderation & forbearance towards persons who might not illuminate; for many entertain conscientious scruples concerning the lawfulness of these things. But they do not think that this caution in words is sufficient. They therefore beg the attention & aid of the magistrates, & request that they may consider of proper, yet prudent measures, wherein they may co-operate with the Council.

Perhaps it may not be amiss that all the Constables be ordered to be about Town in the Evening; and also the Watchmen, at an early hour, concerning whom we send to the Wardens. And it appears a good precaution to advise by bellmen, by note at the Cofee house, & otherwise every Inhabitant, who sets up lights, to

extinguish them, at eleven o'clock precisely. But these things are only hinted.

It is however necessary to inform you, that the Council expect that Colonel Nichols, the Town Major, will be assisted with 200 Soldiers to patrole the streets of this City in the Evening, & as long into the night as may be necessary. He will probably ask for some of the Constables to direct in preserving the peace.

A fire-work to be placed on the Common, will probably draw many disorderly persons out of town after dark, but this may take off the Citizens & their Servants too, so as to leave the candles unattended, & cause fires to happen, a circumstance which is worthy of your attention.

I am Sir

Your h'ble Servant,

T. W.*

Directed,

To h'ble Jas. Young, Esqr, to be communicated to the other Justices.

R. Macalester to President Wharton, 1777.

Hanover Town, July 4th, 1777.

S^r,

Altho I have don Every thing in my Power, there still Remains severall Parts in this County I Cant Get arrainged, they will not meet to chuse ofesers, nor will any that we make Choice of serve, in som parts they Carry the matter so farr as to threaten the lives of the officers that have Excepted, there is now some w^t me for arms and amonition, & say they must Leave there Dwellings if not suported, men they can Raise they say, but arms &c. is not in there Power, they are threatened there houses & windoes drove to shatter in the Night, this County is Quite Destitude of arms, & not many Places in more need. I hope y^r Honour will be pleased to send a suply of the Above Artickles as soon as Posable.

As soon as I have Got a Return of the offusers I shall send them, which shall be as speedily as posable. Indeed I Expect nothing less than when this long tailed oath is to be imposed on the People in many parts of this County we shall have som truble on hand, as many are of opinion it is Verry impolitick at Present. I am w^th

Due Respect y^r Honours most obedient h'le Servent,

R^d M^cCALESTER.

Directed,

To The Honorable Thomas Wharton, Esq'r, President, Philadelphia.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI p. 287.

President Wharton to Virginia Delegates in Congress, 1777.

In Council, Philadelphia, July 5, 1777.

Gentlemen,

Being authorized by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to propose to the Commonwealth of Virginia a final settlement of the disputed boundary line between the two States, I think myself happy to have opportunity of doing it thro' you. The proposals on our side, taken together will I conceive, appear so reasonable, that I flatter myself they lay a foundation for an happy adjustment of all differences. You have them in the enclosed extract from the minutes of Assembly, to which I beg leave to refer you, being

Sirs,

your most obedient and
very humble servant,
THO. WHARTON, jun., Pres't.*

Directed.

To the Hon'ble the Delegates of the State of Virginia in Congress.

President Wharton to John Bayley, 1777.

In Council, July 5, 1777.

Jno. Bayley, Esqr.,

Yours of the 27th of June came to hand, by which I was informed of the violent conduct of those people who make such loud declarations against the lawfulness of repeling the open and professed Enemies of our Natural and civil rights as freemen, and the dangerous length they have carried their resentment to, denying by their cruel and Illegal conduct (in this case) that pacifick disposition under which they have hitherto screened themselves, and been exempted by the laws of their Country from personal service under the military regulation. The daring opposition given to Government by these people in this unhappy instance, ought to stimulate every officer in the civil department to vigorous exertions of his duty in the preserving of peace and good order in his Neighbourhood, to convince our internal Enemies that the laws of the state must and will be supported, and as well to strengthen the hands of the honest and upright that they have a place of security to fly to for protection in all cases. Your opinion with respect to sending the most notorious leaders in

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 240.

the late riot to Philad^a jail, appears to be founded in reason, as it may be attended with good effects on several accounts. By strictly pursuing the wholesome regulation the late acts of Assembly has provided for the preservation of our free and Independent state, I make no doubt of soon seeing peace & good order restored. I have wrote more fully to Col. Galbreath on this subject, as your attendance in Council is greatly wanted, having as yet only a bare quorum of members; this being our present situation, I need not use any further argument to excite your speedy return.

I am Sir, your &c.

Lieut. S. Hunter to President Wharton, 1777.

Northmberland County.
Fort Augusta, 5th July 1777.

Sir:

Agreeable to your orders Dated ye 19th June, to stop the militia of this County from marching, I Recd. the 29th, when the first class was on their march to Bristol on the Delaware, Which I had to send after them to Return back again; and all this was owing to your Letter to me being delay'd on the Road. Suppose sent by Mr Robb one of the Representatives of our County in Assembly. The people in General that composed the first class turned out Spirited on this occasion, and I hope will always do so when their Country calls them. There was one Company marched upwards of sixty miles, & two other Companys about thirty, and on their return I promised to see them paid untill they returned home. The Expence that has accrued in Vietualling & other Necessarys, I hope will be allowed by the Council, and if so, please to order me about Three Hundred Pounds, which you may intrust the Bearer, Doctor Frances Alison, with, and I shall be accountable for s^d sum or sums that you send. Procureing substitutes for some People occasioned some trouble, but we are in a fair way of setling that now.

I am S^r, y^r most
Obed^t Humble Servt.

SAML. HUNTER, Lieut.

Directed,

To Honorable Thomas Wharton, Junr, President.

Forwarded by Doctor Frances Allison.

President Wharton to Jno. Hubley, 1777.

Philad^a July 7th 1777.

Sir:

By order of the Council I have sent to your care the sum of one Thousand pounds by the hand of Robert Galbraith, Esqr, which they request you to forward by a safe hand to Colonel Bartram Galbraith for the purpose of paying the costs of Muskets, to be purchased by him, &c.

With Great respect,

I am

Your very humb^le Servant,

Directed,

To John Hubley, Esqr, Lancaster.

President Wharton to Bartrem Galbraith, 1777.

Philad^a, July 7th, 1777.

Sir,

By order of the Council I have forwarded to John Hubley, Esqr, of Lancaster by the hands of Robert Galbraith, Esqr, the sum of one Thousand pounds, which he is requested to forward to you by a safe hand; this money is intended to pay for such Muskets as you may have procured in your County. I suppose a further sum will be sent you as soon as the state of the Treasury will admit of it.

I am

with great respect,

Your very humble servant.

Directed,

To Bartram Galbraith, Esqr, Lieutenant of the County of Lancaster.

Wm. Lyon to President Wharton, 1777.

Carlisle, July 7th, 1777.

Honoured Sir,

I have twice Verbally asked the Books and Papers, &c., belonging to the Prothonotary's Office of Mr. Agnew, the late acting Prothotary for this county. The first time he gave some encouragement that he would deliver them up, but the second, he told me he thought himself not safe in delivering them without orders from Col. Francis to whom he gave bond with security as well for the delivery of the office up to him at the expiration of a Certain term, as for the faithful discharge of his duty in the office, this answer I look upon as equivocal and think he designs to give all the Trouble he can before he parts with the Books & Papers &c., I have therefore made a demand of the office in writing according to Law, he still declines giving up the office or any part of it, but says he will not oppose its being taken from him.

As the Justices have agreed to hold the court of General Quarter Sessions here on the 22nd Instant and the Common Pleas the same week, being the usual time for holding the Summer Courts for this County, want of the Books, Papers, &c., must then be a very great Detriment to Court Proceedings; an Order or such directions from the Council to the Justices as may be adjudged requisite on the matter, will be very necessary, which if conveyed by the Bearer Mr Jonathan Kearsley will reach this in all probability before Court and may answer the end in my opinion much better than to have it delay'd: as to the seal of office Mr Agnew says it is the property of Col. Francis and on that account refuses to give it up.

Inclos'd is a list of officers with their Rank, in the Militia of this County, which the Sub-Lieutenants have signed and desired me to send you in order that Commissions may be issued.

The three inclosed Returns of Justices of the peace for this County is all that's yet come to hand of the seven townships you wanted Returns of, tho' I wrote to all of them immediately upon my getting home, if any more comes to my hand shall forward them.

I need scarcely mention the second man Returned for Justice in Leek Township, as not deserving that office, he's said by many (and I believe it) not to be an honest man, I think Mr. Hoge will agree to the same.

The People here seems quiet as to publick matters and the Militia I understand by the Sub-Lieutenants, are in pretty good order, the People in and about this Town has not yet falen in to take the oath

of fidelity save a very few, but I think they must soon see the necessity of a Complyance.

I am
Your Excellency's
Most Obedient
Humble Servant,
WILLM. LYON.

LEWIS NICOLA TO COLONEL JOHN SHEE, 1777.

July 7th, 1777.

Sir,

Agreeable to your desire that I should by letter remind you of the request I made last Saturday that the Board of War would be pleased to direct Col. Melcher or some of his deputies to lay before the board an act of all the firing issued by my order last winter, together with my orders, when the Board is possessed of these, the account may be speedily settled, as it is only computing how many weeks I have drawn for 8 Guards, at three quarters of a cord a week to which I hope the Board will be pleased to add a quarter of a cord ⅌ week being the allowance for one room, as I was obliged to burn full that quantity in a room appropriated to the reception of a large number of persons who came to me Daily on publick business without its having been of any use to my family, should this be refused I shall be on a worse footing than every other officer who is allowed that quantity for his private use. Another small allowance of about 2 or 3 cords must be made on the following accounts, The first Guard on Genl. Ewing was placed in a house at the corner of Second & Market Street, occupied by Militia, who burned a cord put in for the Guard in one day & the day following, when the Guard was removed to a store at the back of Mr. John Mitchels house, I was obliged to supply them again, when Genl. Gates ordered a guard of regulars to mount for him, it was placed in the Court House & the weeks allowance of firing regularly put in, & generally consumed in 5 days, which deficiency, I refused to make good till ordered by the General to supply the guard, as it was unreasonable that men who were no ways concerned in the wasteful use of the wood should suffer for it, this was the case for a few weeks till I found Edward Barry Serj^t Major to the City Guards, lived at a reasonable distance from the Court house when I made him take the wood into his yard & give daily a 7th part to the guard, these are facts I solemnly assure you of, & can give sufficient proof, I am sorry to trouble you with such an epistle but

thought it necessary to put the affair in its true light, Permit me to assure you that I am

Sir,

Your most obedt Servt

LEWIS NICOLA.

Directed,

To Colonel John Shee.

Resolutions of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, 8 July, 1777.

Resolved,

That General Nash be directed immediately to repair, with the North Carolina and Virginia Forces now in and about Philadelphia, to Billingsport, there to remain 'till farther Orders: and that these Troops, with the Militia from Pennsylvania and New Jersey already ordered to that place, be employed in compleating the works for the Defense of the River Delaware.

9 July, 1777.

Resolved,

That the Resolution of yesterday relative to the measures taken for the Defense of Billingsport, be transmitted to the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania; and that they be desired to go on, with the assistance Congress hath afforded them, to complete the works at that place with all Expedition, agreeably to the Report of the Committee, referred to them by Congress, on the 11 June last.

Copies from the Journals

WILLIAM CH. HOUSTON, Dep. Sec.

Thomas Savadge to Board of War of Pennsylvania, 1777.

Pennsylvania Salt works, July 8, 1777.

Sir,

Your's of the 1st Inst, duly came to hand. I shall take care to furnish the troops with provisions on the best terms I can, you have not mentioned what rations they draw which leaves me much at a loss what to provoide, I beg you'll inform me the first opportunity.

The tediousness and delay of erecting these works arises from not obtaining an exemption of my people from military duty in the militia

& having no guard here for their defence, and while such obstacles are in the way, I do not know when I shall get them to work, or keep them at work, if they where compleated, it takes half my time riding about the Country looking for fresh hands, and when I have had them two weeks the militia takes them away, yesterday G[l] warned every man I have at work to march on Saturday next, and harvest Coming on dont know where to get one man, my mill-wright has not been at work since Col. Morris & his party were here last winter, his reason was because I had no protection for them, either from military duty, or defence, nor have I been able to get another since on any terms, I have about two weeks work to do at the mill & pumps which would enable me to get four pairs at work, and the remainder in a short time.

If my people leave the works on Saturday, which undoubtedly they must, shall take that opportunity of comeing to town.

I remain Sir,

Your most Humble Serv[t]

THOS. SAVADGE.

Directed,

To Rich'd Bache, Esq., President of the Hon'ble Board of War State of Pennsylvania.

Genl. Washington to President Wharton, 1777.

Head Quarters, Morristown, July 9th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

I find accurate Draughts or Maps of the Country which is or may be the seat of War so essentially necessary, that I must beg leave to recommend such a measure with all possible Expedition, so far as regards the shores of the Delaware where the Enemy may probably land & march. When the enemy have once possessed themselves of of any part of the Country every attempt to delineate it becomes difficult if not wholly impracticable; the Propriety therefore of doing it with all possible Advantage, I trust will be too obvious to your Honourable Board to make it necessary to push it farther.

In the Execution of this work, I would wish the Eminences, Distances of Places, Woods, Streams of Water, Marshy Places & Passes may be particularly noted. And that it be done on as large a scale as is tolerably convenient.

I am Gentlemen,

with due respect & regard

Your most obed[t] &

very Hble Serv[t]

G[o]. WASHINGTON.

P. S. I scarcely think it necessary to suggest secrecy & caution in the execution of this Work, as its value & importance must very much depend not only on the Ability, but Fidelity of those to whom it is intrusted.*

Directed.

His Excell^y Thomas Wharton Esq., President of the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

The Examination of Thomas Patterson, 1777,

Philad^a, ss. July the 9th, 1777.

Taken before James Young & Philip Boehm, Esq^rs, two of the Justices, &c. On Suspicion of being Inimical to American Freedom. Says that he has lived for these three Years past with David Sprout, Merch^t in this City, that Mr Sprout left this about four Weeks ago, but where he intended to go to does not know, & that on the Sunday following the Ex^m, went up to Willm McMutries, about eight miles from this where he saw Mr Sprout, & in the evening was forced over the River in a Battoe by one of McMutries Negroes, and the next morning walked to Mr Baldwin Wakess, at the Recommendation of Robert Lenox Nephew to Mr Sprout, where he worked three Weeks at Hay making, and on Monday last returned the same Way he went; was Ferried over Delaware by two Boys of Joseph Morgans to M^r McMutries Plantation, who told him that he heard it reported in town that Mr Sprout was in New York.

Examined before us.

THOMAS PATTERSON.

JA'S YOUNG.
PHILIP BOEHM.

He refusing to take & subscribe the Oath Allegiance agreeable to Act of Assembly, Passed the 13th June, 1777. Committed to Gaol without Bail or mainprize.

JA'S YOUNG.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 250.

JOHN ARNDT TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Northampton County, July 9th, 1777.

Sir,

This is to acquaint you that after receiving your Circular letter, dated Philadelphia, June 17th, 1777, as many of us as could be convened together, met at the Town of Northampton in this County, on the 26th of June last, and after Considering the Contents of Said Letter, wee adopted the plan Recommended therein.

Wee have accordingly appointed Cunrad Creider of Allens Township, to be waggon Master General, and also appointed proper assistants for him, and ordered him to furnish us with a return of the Number of Waggons in this County, by the fifth day of this month, to which day wee adjourned another meeting, at which day by the Waggon master Generals return, the number of Waggons appeared to be 550.

Wee then Proceeded to Divide the waggons into Brigades, and appointed a Waggon Master to each of them, and ordered them to cast lots in order to know which Brigades should answer the first call of the Waggon Master General of the County, on Legal application made to him for that Purpose.

wee are Sir, your most Humble Servants,

Signed by order, and in behalf of the Justices of this County.

JOHN ARNDT.*

Directed,

To his Excellency Thomas Wharton, Jr., President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia.

SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO MAGISTRATES, 1777.

In Council, July 9, 1777

Gentlemen,

The Hon. House of Assembly has Resolved that a Number of Persons in this City & County, & the Counties of Chester & Bucks, should be appointed to take an acct. of all the Flour, Wheat, Grain, or other stores, &c., within their respective districts, in order for their removal in case the Enemy's movements should make it necessary, as the Council have not a sufficient knowledge of the people to make a Judicious Choyce of persons for the above purpose.

I must request the Magistrates of your County to make a return

* By a return printed in Archives, Vol. III., p. 404—the No. of wagons in 1758 in this Co., was only 260. See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 247.

to the Council of the Names of persons well qualified to execute this Business, with the utmost expedition, that the Council may empower them to Act.

The Hon. House of Assembly also resolved, that the Council should nominate proper persons in the several Counties to take care of poor persons who might be sent out of the City, & to see that they were properly billeted. I must request you will also furnish the names of a Number of Persons to the Council, for this business, who they will empower immediately to Execute it when necessary. We would observe y^t The Family & Effects of Poor Militia Men then in actual service, to be removed at the Public Expence.

Directed,

To the Magistrates of city & county of Philad^a, counties of Chester & Bucks.

Return of the Pennsylvania Militia Lying at Billingsport, July 10th, 1777.

Colonels,	City or Countys,	Officers Present.												Non-Commis'n.			Rank & File.								Alterations since last Return.		
		Commissioned.							Staff.																		
		Number of Class.	Colonels.	Lt. Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Chaplains.	Adjutants.	Qr. Master.	Surgeons.	Mates.	Sergeants.	Drums.	Fifes.	Fit for duty.	Sick present.	Sick absent.	On Comm'd.	On Furlough.	Total.	Substitutes.	Non-Substitutes.	Dead.	Discharged.	Deserted.
Bradford,	City Philada.,	1	1	1	1	6	11	5		1	1			21	6	6	275	4			15	321	154	167			
Delany,	Do. Do.	2	1	1		5	12	5		1	1			22	6	4	275	6		5	21	320	149	171			
			2	2	1	11	23	10		2	2			43	12	10	550	10		5	36	641	303	338			

JNO. BULL, A. Gen. S. P.

Directed.

To His Ex'cy Thomas Wharton, June 18th, 1777.

Sup. Exec. Council, to Lieut's of the Counties, 1777.

Sirs,

In my Letter of I requested you to exert yourself to arrange the Militia agreeable to the Law and immediately to order out the first Class in consequence of a resolve of Congress. I can have no doubt your firm attachment to our cause and of your ready complyance with such orders as you may receive from the Council in the Line of your Duty & therefore conclude the Militia in your County to be in such forwardness as that they will soon appear at Camp, where I shall endeavot to have them supplied with such articles as you cannot possibly procure for them.

His Excellency Gen. Washington is of opinion that the Enemy are meditating a blow against this State which by the assistance of their Ships, & we are told they are in perfect readiness, they may make the attack much sooner, and expect in a quarter the least prepared for defence, it therefore behoves us to use every means in our power to draw out the strength of the State. I therefore instruct you to forward the first Class of the Militia with the utmost diligence to Camp, and endeavor to have the Second Class in such forwardness that in case they are called for they may be enabled to render their Country such essential service as may reasonably be expected from Men determined to loose their lives in defence of their Liberties.

Plan formed by Committee for driving off Stock, 1777.

To his Excellency the President, & the Honorable Council.

The Committee appointed by the Honble. Council to drive off all kinds of live stock when the approach of the Enemy should make it necessary, Met the 8th of this Instant July 1777, and after mature deliberation on the Subject of their appointment, were Unanimous of oppinion that the Number of Persons appointed is not sufficient, And that too many of them are Citizens and perhaps not so well quallified as Persons in the Country.—And likewise several of the Gentleman Nominated by the Honourable Council have rendered such ample reasons to this Committee for their not undertaking the Business, as fully satisfies us.

We therefore in conjunction with them, have formed the following Plan, and beg leave to lay the same before your Excellency and the Honorable Council for your Consideration

Class 1st. For Oxford, Lower Dublin, Moreland and Byberry Townships, which comprehend all between Frankford and Poqueston creeks. Jacob Zeble, Sam'l Potts, Rudolph Neff, John Dungan, Sam'l Neaswinger, Jno. Keen, Sr., & Sam'l Swift.

Class 2d. This District includes from Frankford Creek to ye bounds of ye City. Conrad Baker, John Stillwaggen, John Hall, Isaac Coates, & Jas. Hill.

Class 3d. For the City. Wm. Carson, Dean Timmons, Nath. Donnell, and Andrew Carson.

Class 4th. For Southwark, Moyamensing, and Passyunk. E'd Few, Rich'd Dennis, James Whitten, Henry Magg, Saml Penrose, Geo Young, and Jacob Whitman.

Class 5th. For Kingsess and Blocklye. Philip Price, Adam Guyer, and Joshua Ash, Jr.

If the above described mode should Merit your Approbation, we Humbly pray your Excellency and Honble. Council would give a line of direction to each respective Class, which we humbly apprehend will enable them to perform the arduous task in their respective Districts with spirit when called thereunto.

Philada. July 12, 10th, 1777.*

State Navy Board to President Wharton, 1777.

State Navy Board, July 12, 1777.

Sir,

We received your Letter of the 9th Inst., and have now to inform you, that the two State Galleys, Captains Price and Eyres, are prepairing, and will be ready by Wednesday next to proceed and act in conjunction with the Continental Galleys.

Have taken an opportunity of a conference with the Commodore on the subject, and we are of opinion that we shall run a very great risque of the Fleet down the Cape May Channel, unless we can procure an equal force with the Enemy; for it often happens, that a Vessel taking the first of a Southerly breeze from Sea, will push up so fast as to overhawle any Vessels that may be miles up higher, before they feel the Wind, by which means the Enimee's Ships may cut off our retreat, and in the interim, whilst our fleet is block'd up in that Channel, the Enemy may send to New York to procure such Vessels as may suit their purpose, and the consequence be a total loss of the Fleet.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 244

And we wou'd further inform you, that we have taken the enormous expence attending the Navy Service, by means of employing a great number of Chevaus de Frise Pilots immediately, the annual expence whereof is £2160,—and their rations equal to their wages, who are not, in our opinion, of any use at this time; that we recommend to your consideration, whether they ought to be continued. We apprehend there is no necessity of a greater number, than for One to be appointed for each of the Five Ships, the State Brig^t and Schooner, and they can do all the duty that is necessary.

By Order of the Board.

JO^s BLEWER, Cheerman.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Junr, Esqr.

Robert Smith to President Wharton, 1777.

July 12, 1777.

S^r,

I am under the necessity of applying to you by Col^e Cheney, for Money to enable me to fill the 1st Class of Chester County Militia. The Class has long since, been duly ordered to March. Notwithstanding repeated Orders, there is but about 320 arived at Chester, Two hundred of which are Substitutes. This Acc^t I have received from Colonel John Hannum, the Commanding Officer at that Station; his pressing request to fill the 1st Class with your Orders, Occasione me thus to intrude on your patience. The Class, when filled, will consist of near Seven Hundred; Therefore a greater Sum will be necessary than could be expected at first view.

There is likewise wanted at that Station, a quantity of Amunition. Your Compliance with the above request will very much oblige the publick & Your Humble Servt,

ROB^t SMITH.

P. S. Two Thousand Pounds is necessary for the present. Your Order for the above Sum will Oblige

R. S.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thos Wharton, Esqr, President of the Executive Council of the State of Pensylvania.

JOHN HUBLEY TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Lancaster, July, 1777.

Sir,

Enclosed I send you a Return of Martick Township, in our County, and John Hopson's resignation, agreeable ao your request. I hope we shall soon be able to do business here, as we have Magistrates in this Town, who, I think, will do their duty. It is a matter of great concern to me, that we receive none of the late Laws in this Town; not any of them have I seen, except two, and those by chance. I beg the favour of you to forward to me a compleat set of all the Laws passed by the present Assembly, and their Journal. Is it not vexatious to see capaling so much in voke? I expected that matters were in a fair way to Unite the contending parties; but I see in the Papers a fresh call for the Remonstrants to meet & consider, what & how to employ the presses to keep up a continual heat, for fear matters might be in such a train, as would settle the minds of the People, and a thorough reconciliation take place. I am much mistaken in my Judgment if this very Oath of abjuration & allegiance, which at present, seems to both Parties Necessary, will not be the very foundation on which new objections will arise, if a Convention is not called, or if there is, and if it does not turn Governm^t tipsy turvey, you will hear a loud cry against this *Tiranical* Oath, that it was intended for naught but to hinder substantial, good disposed People to ellect or be ellected; depriving them of the rights of Freemen, &c.

I am, Sir,

Your very hble. Servt,

JOHN HUBLEY.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esqr, Secretary to the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

CAPTAIN JOHN NICE TO STATE BOARD OF WAR, 1777.

Pennsylvania Salt Works, Near Toms River,
New Jersey, July 14th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

These are to let you know that I arrived at our Station the 6th Instant all in good health, But as our provision is all salt and the water bad it would be Nessary for the men to have some spirits or I fear they will get sick, and we have no Doctor nor any medicines and Likewise some Vinegar would very Nessary for the mens Helth as or Vegitables of any Kind theire is none to be got Here, and my

Party is small, it will Be Nessary to keep them as Helthy as Possible for we cannot tell how soon the enemy will pay us a visset as we can see them Dayly Pass Our Inlet, I was obliged to By Provisions along the rode for the men for three Days, and had to Pay a great Price for it, of which I send you an Accompt By Lieu't Luter.

So I remain your

Hum'bl Servent,

JNO. NICE, Capt'n.

Directed.

To The Honorable Board of War for the State of Pennsylvania.

State Board of War to President Wharton, 1777.

Pennsylvania War Office, July 16th, 1777.

Sir,

We are under the necessity of laying before your Excellency, the continual demands upon this Board for money, and the want of funds to supply these demands. The business of the board seems now pretty much confined to the receiving & passing accounts, many accounts have been passed which are not yet paid, this is the cause of much complaint among the people, and renders our situation here not only useless but disagreeable. Twenty Thousand Dollars might perhaps answer the present demands.

I am with great respect,

in behalf of the Board

Your Excellency's

most obedient Servant,

RICH. BACHE, Chairman.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, junr. Esq., President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

State Navy Board to President Wharton, 1777.

State Navy Board, July 17, 1777.

Sir,

We wrote you ye 12th Inst, wherein gave you our opinion respecting the Fleet, intended to be sent down to Cape May Channell, This Morning one of our Members having some business to transact with the Continental Navy Board, when he was informed that they were then making out their Orders to the Commanding Officer which they desired him to communicate to this Board. Should be glad to receive your instructions what Steps we shall take, as we have not been favoured with an answer to our Letter, must defer giving the Continental Navy Board a reply to a Letter this moment received, wherein they made application for the two fire Ships to act in Conjunction with the Fleet.

By order of the Board
JOSEPH BLEWER, C^m.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jr., Esq.

Supreme Executive Council to State Navy Board, 1777.

In Council, Philada. July 17th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

In answer to your's just rec'd we have to say that the Fire Ships were built to embarras the Enemy's Fleet in the narrow parts of the River Delaware—if they should attempt to approach so near to this City, The Council however has no objection to lend two to the Continental Navy Board, provided Congress will give orders to you to prepare immediately others to replace them, upon reconsidering the propriety of ordering down our two large gallies to act in conjunction with the Continental Vessels, upon the present occasion should you acquiesce to the measure, the Council will be perfectly satisfied.

Directed,

To the hon'ble Penns^a Navy Board.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1777.

War Office, July 17th. 1777.

Sir,

I have the Honour to return Monsr Du Coudray's Plan* of the Works at Billingsport & have it in Direction to inform you that Congress approve of the Plan, & desire it may be put into immediate Execution.

I have the honour to be

with due Respect

your very obed^t Servt

RICHARD PETERS, Sec.

Directed,

On the Service of the United States.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jr., Esq., President of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

Supreme Executive Council to Col. Bradford, 1777.

Philadelphia, July 18, 1777.

Sir,

His Excellency the President commands me to request you to send up to this city Captain Downey. The Council have adopted a measure which it is expected Captain Downey can assist in the execution of. You will therefore please to order him up immediately.

I am

With the greatest respect,

Your most obedient hble Servt,

T. M.

Directed.

To Coll. Bradford, Commanding officer at Billingsport.

* The plan referred to is not found with the Letter, unless it is the one under date of 29th August, which see postea.

SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, TO CAPTAIN DOWNEY, 1777.

Sir,

The Council have adopted a measure which they apprehend you can assist in the execution of, and have ordered me to write to commanding officer at Billingsport to send you up to this city, which I have done accordingly. It will be proper for you to bring up your cloathes, &c., as it is probable you will not return there again for the present.

Directed,

To Capt Downey.

SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO GEN. WASHINGTON.

In Council Philad^a, July 18, 1777.

Sir,

The Council had the Honor yesterday, and not before, to receive your Excellency's Letter dated the 9th Inst.,* to which you may depend the utmost attention will be paid. They are looking out for proper surveyors, & when procured they shall be set to work as soon as possible, and the business shall be conducted with as much expedition & secrecy as the nature of it will admit.

Gen. Ducoudray, by order of Congress has produced a plan of a Fortification to be erected at Billingsport for the defence of the Chevaux de Frize sunk at the bottom of the Delaware opposite to this bank, to retard the Progress of the Enemy's ships which place is smaller than the one already begun but perhaps yet too extensive, however, Congress, rather than delay that work any longer, has adopted it; and this Council who is charged by Congress to see it carried into execution, gave orders for the Militia to be employed & we expect they begun this Day, and we hope will complete it in three or four weeks. Opposite to this fortification is a small bar Island on which Gen. Du Coudray has also ordered a small Battery to be erected. Our preparations by water in Gallies, Floating Batteries, Fire Ships & Fire Rafts together with the Armed Vessels in our River belonging to the United States, may be so conducted as to do the Enemy considerable injury should they bring their Fleet as high up the Delaware as Chester, provided our people act with prudence & resolution. I hope if the Enemy should attempt to invade this State, the Militia we flatter ourselves will turn out with a spirit

* See page 419.

becoming Freemen & afford you such assistance as may enable you to oppose them with success.

With much respect

I have the Honor to subscribe myself

Sir,

Your obedient hum. servant.

George Kriebel's Declaration, 1777.

The Substance of what has passed between John Wetzel & Frck Limback, Esqre, and George Kriebel, when they tendered the Oath of Allegiance unto him.

Mr Limback has granted a warrant for my Son Abraham Kriebel, who being but 17 Years of age the 26th of May last past, for Fine for not exercising, which I refused to comply with; they sent George Welder, the Constable, and had him, the sd Abraham, arrested and ordered me to come along with him to the said Limback, Esqr, Justice of the Peace, and told me also that Mr Wetzel, Esqr, Lieutenant, was also there; when we came there Mr Limback called my Son, Abraham, come here. So he went to him. Mr Limback asked him—says he, here is a warrant against you for £1 12 6; have you any thing to say against it? The Boy made no answer at all, for he never had been before any Magistrate before. Then Mr Limback said unto him, The meaning is, this, whether you be 18 Years old or not? The Boy answered No. Are you sure of it? Yes. Have you any Evidence? Yes. Who is it? My Father. Then Mr Limback called me to come nigh, and asked me, How old is your Boy? He was 17 the 26th of last May, I answered. Can you prove it, said Mr Limback? Yes Sir, I can prove it by Qualifications or by writings, just as you Please. Well, says Mr Limback your words may be well enough, but here is an act of Assembly, so that we can't take your Evidence before you take the Test prescribed in this Act. Then I stopt a little, and then said, I can not take this Test for the Present Time. Mr Wetzel said, Why can't you take this Test now. I said, there are a few words in it which keep me backwards. Mr Wetzel said, which words? I said, to renounce & refuse all allegiance to the King, his Heirs & Successors. Wetzel said, why can't you give up the allegiance to George the III., &c.? I said, I have promised allegiance to him when I was naturalised, and I am afraid I might be guilty of Perjury before God, and in my Conscience, and moreover, it is very uncertain upon which side the Victory will fall out, therefore I can't do it for the Present Time. Then Mr Wetzel said, So do you declare yourself for George the III. of Great Briton? No Sir, I don't declare myself for him, but

because it is so uncertain upon what side God Almighty will bestow the Victory. Mr Wetzel said, Then you wont take that Test? No Sir, not at Present, I said, Mr Wetzel. Then I do command the Justice that he shall Imediately committ you to Goal, and I will not depart from here untill I see you secured, and you shall not come clear from imprisonmedt at no rate, even if you do pay me £1000 Cash upon the Nail. Mr Limback said, well George, you see I can't help it, I must draw a Mittimy for you and send you to Goal —you better take the Test and stay at Home. I said, I can't do it yet, but I will consider the matter and consult my friends about the same, and a great many more words passed between us to the same purpose, among other things, Mr Wetzel said, I will do my utmost to have all those that will not take this Test drove out of the Country. But sir, where shall they go unto? I said. They may go unto Lord Howe, or whereever they Please, leaving their estates behind, but shall never come back again amongst us. This he spoke in a very haughty manner, besides a great many more words, which all to relate would be to troublesome. But these is the most material of our discourse, which happened on the 18th Day of July, 1777.

GEORGE KRIBEL.

N. B. I Promised Mr Wetzel & Limback That I would be true to the State, as much as were in my Power, in Paying any Lawfull Taxes or other Charges, and in Carting or any thing they should want, except in bearing Arms, which was against my Conscience, but all the rest, whatever I could do with the consent of my Conscience, I were willing to do it.

Chester, July 19th, 1777.

Sir,

I was at Fort Island yesterday; there is no loose Boards there, nor can any be got, with out destroying the Barracks.

I request the favour of you to order Boards down from Philada as soon as possible.

I am with Esteem, your
obedient humble servt,
JA'S POTTER.

Directed,

On Publick Service. To his Excelancy Thomas Wharton, P. E. C. S. S., Philadelphia.

☞ favour of Mr. James Erwin.

Board of War to State Board of War, 1777.

War Office, July 19th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

It being represented to the Board that Guards are necessary to be placed at & from the Water Gap, on the River Delaware, to Durham Ferry, for the Purpose of guarding the Boats & preventing Deserters passing that River, You will please to take the Management of that Business & place such Guards as you may think necessary, regulating their Numbers & Pay according to your Discretion.

I have the Honour to be

your very obed^t Servt,

RICHARD PETERS, Sec^y.

Directed,

On publick service. To The Hon'ble, The Board of War, State of Pennsylvania.

Memorial of Commodore Seymour, 1777.

To his Excellency Thomas Wharton, President of the Supreme Executive Council for the Common Wealth of Pennsylvania.—The Petition of Thomas Seymour.

Sheweth,

That before I came into the Service of this State of Pennsylvania, I was Offerd by Colonel Bayard, one of the then Council, & those in the Council Chamber, that if I went into the service of this State my pay should be the same as in the Continental service and that I shou'd be allow'd something for my Expences Vastly Genteel—on account of the Offers & Promises made me I gave my consent to go into the Service.

Some two or three days after my Commission was Read Off at Fort Island before the Captains & Officers, And at the same time was read a Resolve of the Council of Safety, Specifying that every Officer in the State Service Shall have and receive the same Pay & Rations as in the Continental Service agreeable to their Rank.

These Offers and promises made me and the Resolve of the Council of Safety I put my Dependance upon, and Consented to take the Command of the Fleet. I Expected to have receiv'd my Pay & Rations as the Captains Monthly had but was disappointed and never receiv'd one Shilling, tho' I sent in a Petition & Often Aply'd my self, I have now been in the Service above Ten Months. I find the Board of War has Made a Resolve lately that I shou'd not Receive more than

the Pay, which pay was offerd me before & after I came into the Service, & no Rations or Expenses to be allow'd as Read off to the Commanders & Officers at Fort Island. I have never been permitt'd to Receive either the pay or Rations, the Reason I know not.

Commodore Hopkins has had his pay 125 Dollars ⅌ M. agreeable to his Rank but had no Rations, but had such an abundance of Stores of all Sorts lay'd in for him as he was Bound to Sea with his Fleet, the Amount of which wou'd come to five times the Rations or Expences I have aply'd for. A Commodore in the Marine Service Ranks with a Brigadier General in the Land Service, their Pay & Rations Equally the same, agreeably to a Resolve of the Congress & Council of Safety. You are all Sencible in what a distress'd Situation the Fleet was in when I took the Command of it, there was nothing but Contentions, Broils & disputes throughout the Whole Fleet. It has given me great trouble to get the Whole Reconcil'd with each other, and I now say when I was taken Sick the Fleet was in as good or better Order than ever it had been, the Commander & Officers more united than ever. It has cost me Considerable Sums of money for my Expences down to Fort Island & on board the Ship when She lay below, likewise up & down the River last Winter & Spring. Every time we were order'd up the River was oblig'd to lay in Necessary Stores to live on, having neither receiv'd pay or Rations to support me. Lodging, Eating & drinks Very Expensive, All which was Oblig'd to pay out of my Own Pocket, besides Cloathing has been very expensive.

I have now a Large Doctors Bill to pay off & many Others for Necessarys when Sick.

Your Petitioner therefore prays You will take the Premises into Consideration & order him Such Redress as to Your Excellency may seem Meet.

& Your Petitioner will Pray, &c.

THO. SEYMOUR.

Philadelphia, July 1777.

Brigadier General Forman to Congress, 1777.

Sir,

This morning at half past eleven o'clock A. M. the enemys Fleet appeared in New York Narrows on their way to Sandy-Hook. This Evening at sundown there was under the point of the hook and coming down 160 sail as near as we can count; it is beyond doubt that some of them have Troops on board, but to what amount cannot pretend to say.

I shall carefully attend their motions until they sail, and as long

as they continue in sight; should they bear to the southward I will do myself the honour of giving you the earliest information.

I have the honour to be
your most obedient h'mble servant,
DAVID FORMAN, B. G.

Middletown, county of Monmouth, June 20 1777.

(Copy, T. M.)

(The date I presume should have been July instead of June.
T. M)

Directed,
To The h'nble John Hancock, Esq'r.

COL. JOHN PIPER TO JAMES MARTEN, 1777.

Sir,

Pleas to wait upon the Executive Councill for this State and lay Before them the disadvantages we labour under in Executing the Buisness Committed to us, the art and influence of Some individuals in this County Has induc'd Maney of the inhabitants to deny the authority of our Present Legislators, So that whole townships are taught to deny all authority, nor will they Comply in one Single instance with the acts of our Present assembly, and the Great Caus why our Buisness is not Carry'd on with dispatch is owing in a great Measure to the two Gent^n, viz. Cable and Brown, who were apointed Sub Lieu^ts in the western district of this County, there Refusing to do their duty untill the Scence of the People are taken att Large, which throws Sutch Load of Buisness upon me that I find My Self unable to Perform, notwithstanding the number of Good People in this County that are active in their duty, yet from the art and influence of these People there are So mutch oposition and So maney difficultys thrown in our way that our Buisness is mutch Retarded, thefore Sir I hope you'l Lay this Matter before the House and Executive Councill and Pray that they may Grant us Sutch Relief Either by apointing others to do the duty or Any other derections they in their wisdoms May think Proppair. Pleas to Enform that the County is Lay'd off in districks and Each districk Apointed their field officers, But the other Buisness is mutch Kep'd Back for the want of the Concurrance and assistance of the above named Gentlemen.

I am, Sir, your obed't
H'ble Serv't,
JOHN PIPER.

July 20, 1777.

Directed,
To Mr. James Marten, Commiss'r Apointed to wait upon our Assembly at Philadelphia.

Copy of a Letter from Edw'd Giles, 1777.

Peeks Kilns, July 21, 1777.

This day we received the following glorious intelligence, viz.: That General Sinclair having received a large reinforcement of Militia & Continental forces threw a large party behind the Enemy who was pursuing his retreat, sure of success. This party by stolen & rapid marches got between them & their boats which they destroyed —this made a retreat impossible—our people attacked them in front and rear—routed them and killed and took a thousand—and dispersed the rest who fled to the mountains. Should this be true, and that it is we have the greatest reason to believe, Mr. Burgoyne must give over his Chimerical notions of joining Howe and be contented to sneak behind rocks, the shelter of wolves.

EDW'D GILES.

Directed,

To J. Giles, Mount Felix.

Gen'l James Potter to President Wharton, 1777.

Sir,

I am much surprized to find that there is no person here to take the charge of the works carrying on at this place but Major Brown.

Colonell's Bull & Jones, and the other Gentlemen appointed to see them executed, are all gone. If none of those persons will give their attendance to carry on the works, they cannot go on with spirit.

There is not a Cart to carry Earth, and there ought to be at least twenty of them.

I am Sir,

Yours Excellencies most

Hum'l Serv't,

JA'S POTTER.

Billingsport, July 22, 1777.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President of Pennsylvania.

Gen. Washington to Congress, 1777. (Copy.)

Camp, 11 miles in the Clove, July 22d, 1777.

Sir,

We have been under great embarrassments respecting the intended operations of Gen. Howe, & still are, notwithstanding the utmost pains to obtain intelligence of the same. At present it would appear, that he is going out to sea. By authentic information, there are only forty ships at New York. The rest are gone elsewhere, & have fallen down between the Narrows & the Hook. Between these two places, the number, from the most accurate observation, was about one hundred, & twenty on yesterday.

As I observed before, their destination is uncertain & unknown, but I have thought it my duty to inform Congress of these facts, that they may give orders to the Militia to hold themselves in readiness to march on the shortest notice, in case Philadelphia should be their object. At the same time, I am to request, that they will have a sufficient number of proper look-outs fixed at the capes of Delaware, to whose accounts implicit confidence may be given, to make the earliest reports of the arrival of any fleet, which Congress will transmit me by the speediest conveyance. As the Enemy will probably make many feints, & have it unhappily but too much in their power from their shipping, I would advise, that the look-outs should be cautioned to be extremely accurate in their observations & reports, mentioning with as much precision as possible, the number of ships that may appear. Our situation is already critical, & may be rendered still more so, by inaccurate & ill-grounded intelligence.

From the advices received on Saturday, of the movements of part of the enemy's ships, & the strong reasons there were to suppose General Howe would push up the North river, to co-operate with General Burgoyne, I detached Lord Stirling with his division to Peeks Kill on Sunday morning. They crossed the river that evening, & the next morning. This movement will prove unnecessary, should his destination be to the Southward. I have also ordered General Nixon's brigade from Peeks Kill to reinforce General Schuyler; from his representations of the inadequacy of his force to oppose General Burgoyne, & of the seeming backwardness of the people in that quarter to afford him aid.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
G. WASHINGTON.

P. S.—I think the works at Billingsport well worthy of attention, & it expedient to effect their completion as soon as possible.

(Copy.) Cha. Thomson, Secretary.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, 23 July 1777.

Christopher Ludwig, Superintendant of bakers being sent by General Washington to Philadelphia, to procure a number of journeymen-bakers, & it being represented by him that he cannot be supplied by reason that they are most of them engaged in the Militia,

Ordered,

That Mr. Ludwig apply to the Supreme Executive Council of the state of Pennsylvania, & that it be recommended to the said Council to furnish him with such a number of journeymen-bakers out of the Militia employed in the service of the Continent as he may want.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Board of War to Supreme Executive Council, 1777.

War Office, July 23d, 1777.

Gentlemen,

General Knox having requested the two twelve Pounders belonging to this State, to be sent to Head Quarters, I have it in Direction to lay his request before you, as the Board have no Authority to order them on without your Concurrence.

I have the Honor to be,

With great Respect,

Your very Obed. Servt,

RICHARD PETERS, Secy.

Directed, On Public Service.

His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, jr., Esqr, Presidt State of Pennsylvania.

War Office,
Richard Peters Secy.

General Forman to Congress, 1777.

Sir,

On Sunday, the 20 of this inst., I had the honor of informing you that 160 sail of the enemy's fleet had come from the watering place, & lay in Sandy Hook bay. On Monday morning, fifteen transports & men of war joined them, & about 10 o'clock 80 small brigs, schooners & sloops came out of the Narrows & joined the grand fleet.

Tuesday, they lay still. This morning, at half past six, the signal gun for sailing was fired. The wind north-west, at seven they began to get under way, & stood for sea; after they got clear of the hook, they steered a south-east course, under a very easy sail, in three divisions. I attended their motion until sundown, & perceived very little difference in their course, sometimes appearing to steal a little to the eastward, at other times somewhat to the southward. By a deserter from on board the transport ship America, I am this morning informed that some part of Genl Howe's army that crossed from this state to Staten Island, have been sent to New York. He cannot say what number, but thinks not exceeding 500. He also informs, that the remainder, except two Hessian, regt's that are left guard on Staten Island, embarked on board this fleet. I have the honor to be, &c.

DAVID FORMAN.

Shrewsbury, 23 July, 1777.

Copy CHA. THOMSON, Secy.

Directed,

From Genl. Forman to Congress, July, 23, 1777.

(Copy.)

PRESIDENT WHARTON TO BRIG. GEN. POTTER, 1777.

Philadelphia, July 23, 1777.

Sir,

His Excellency, the President just now recvd. yours of Yesterday, and he commands me to acquaint you that Coll. Bull has been authorized & directed by the Council to supply the Militia with Carts, &c., & that as Colt Bull is gone down this morning to Billingsport, he will, of course, give his attention to this duty. Colt Jones will be directed to give his attention also immediately, and if anything shall have happened to prevent him from it, another will be appointed in his stead, as the Council are in earnest to have the works forwarded with all possible expedition.

There is at Billingsport a Flatload of boards, which you are requested to use in sheltering the Men from the weather for the present.

If any delay shall happen in the Engineer's attendance, his Excellency requests you to make a temporary appointment for this duty.

I have the honor to be

your most obedient humble Servt

T. MATLACK, Secy.

Directed,

To Genlt Potter, at Billingsport.

FORDS ON DELAWARE. [NOTE.]

About two miles above Trenton Ferry at Maland Kirbrights Farm there is a ford which is passable when the River is low, at this time there is 5 feet water—here the River is still and wide.

At Yarleys Ferry four miles above Trenton the River at the head of the Island below the Ferry, is fordable, when the River is low, at this Time there is near four feet water, something rapid—at the Ferry it is dead Water and a good Place to lay a Bridge of Pontoons, the River is about three hundred yards wide, a good Road from Maidenhead & Princeton leads to the Ferry.

Sanders Falls, two miles & a half higher there is a Ford, rapid, four & half feet water, about one hundred and fifty yards to the Island and four hundred over. Between Yarleys Ferry and Sanders falls, there is no suitable place for a Bridge.

At Browns Ferry, two miles above Sanders Falls, there is still water two hundred & fifty to three hundred yards over, at Road from Pennytown, Maidenhead, Princeton & Brunswick come directly to this Ferry.

At Knowle's Cove, two miles above Browns ferry is a narrow pass, one hundred & twenty Five yards over, rapid & deep—No Road of Consequence leads to this place, the Country Rough all below is a smooth Country.

At Pittits Ferry, one mile above Knowles Cove is a fording place four or four & half feet water, 300 yards over still water, for a Bridge and Road from Pennytown &c., country hilly on the Jersey Shore & level on Pennsylvania.

To the foot of Wills falls is three miles & half from Pittits, here is a still water deep and only one hundred & fifty yards over, the Country rough on each side several large Roads lead to this Place.

From the foot of the falls to Carryells Ferry is one & a quarter mile, rapid deep & wide, one Island between.

At Carryells Ferry still, four hundred yards over. *

INSTRUCTIONS RELATING TO SURVEY OF THE SHORE OF THE DELAWARE, 1777.

In Council July 24, 1777.

The Council being desirous of obtaining a Survey of the Shore of the river Delaware and of the land for about four miles to the westward taking in the Great roads leading to the southward where they may extend further than that distance from the river, and remarking the several places where an enemy may land and the kind of ground

* See page 419.

adjoining, whether marshy, hilly, open, or covered with woods, and where there are several heights near each other remark'g their altitudes and distances apart, remarking particularly the several Creeks and streams of water as high up at least as the tide flows, and the places where they may be forded or passed by bridges—where there are Swamps near the river, or roads, not'g paticularly their kinds & sizes nearly—Passes of difficulty to an army to be accurately surveyed and well described. The Council therefore direct you to proceed immediately upon this duty, with as much secrecy and dispatch as the nature of it will admit, beginning at

and making your observations downward as far as to

Nathan Sellers to survey from Schuylkill to Christiana Creek.

Col[l]. Lollar from Christiana Creek downward.

Cap[t]. Dewney from Coopers Ferry to Salem.

Benj[a]. Davis from Salem downward.

Copy of the Gen[l] Certificate to the surveyors, vis[t].

The Council having occasion to take a rough Survey of the country near the river Delaware, have authorized and directed

to perform that service between and

All persons are hereby requested to be aiding and assisting in the said service when called upon. *

Note to Col[l] Lollar ("as far as you can untill you are further instructed.")

Directed,

To All concerned.

SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO ELIAS BOUDINOT, 1777.

In Council, July 24, 1777.

Sir,

The distressed situation of our Bretheren, both officers & soldiers, that are in the hands of the enemy at New York, for the want of both provisions & Clothing, impells us to write to you on the subject for altho we have not the least doubt but that your Humanity has influenced you to exert yourself to relieve their wants, yet from some cause or other they have been for a long while greatly neglected, we wish most sincerely that their confinement may be made as easy to them as possible and if they can contribute thereto, will cheerfully engage in it. The council are told by the Secretary to the board of war that you are endeavoring to procure a Quantity of Flour, to send to them, should you meet with difficulty in obtaining it, and that you think it can be sent from hence with much speed, we will un-

* See page 419, also Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 250.

dertake it upon your furnishing us with permission from Gen. Howe to admit it for their use—The wishes of the Council to see our friends who are in captivity, & who have been fighting in the cause of Freedom, partake of the comforts of life as abundantly at least as those of the enemy in our possession, has induced us to address you on this subject, & to offer you our services to assist in their relief.

With great respect &

regard I remain Sir,

your very Hum. Servt.

Directed.

To Elias Boudinot Esq., Commissary Genl. of Prisoners.

Brig. General Hand to President Wharton, 1777.

Fort Pitt, 24th July, 1777.

Sir,

From the inclosed papers your Exc^y will be able to inform a tolerable idea of the disposition of the Indians, to what may be learned from these acc'ts I must add the murder of two men on the Allegany River about 20 miles from this place on the 21st ultimo, Pluggy's Town gang with two Tribes of the Shawanese, & some of the Delawares, refuse to listen to the advice of our few Friends. In short, every days experience teaches me that nothing but penetrating their Country & destroying the settlements of these perfidious miscreants, can prevent the depopulation of the Frontiers. This I have determined on, as soon as I can procure a sufficiency of Provisions, and raise men enough to ensure success. Sad experience has taught us that little dependance can be put on the promises or professions of the savages, & I am well assured that the Tribes making the greatest show of Friendship, will not sit still whilst we chastise the Banditti that infests our settlements, unless we have a force sufficient to intimidate them.

As I shall be under the necessity of applying to the County of Westmoreland and probably to that of Bedford for aid, I beg that your Exc^y may be pleased to give orders to the Militia Officers of these Counties to furnish me with what men they can spare for that purpose. I also beg leave to hint to your Exc^y that if a stop was put to driving Beef Cattle from this side the mountains, untill the Troops to be employed here were supplied, it would be productive of many good consequences, & save a great public expense, the Indians are now going to a Treaty at Oswego, & one has lately been held at Niagara, I understand that some men & Stores have lately been sent to Oswego, & am apprehensive that something may be attempted by

the way of the Susquehana, or towards Albany, If I can get any farther light into the matter will take the earliest opportunity of communicating it.

I have the Honour to be
with the Greatest respect your
Exc^y most Obedt^t &
most Hble Servt.
EDW'D. HAND.

Directed,
To his Exc^y Tho's Wharton, Esq., junr., President of the Supreme Executive Council of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

[The following are the papers referred to.]

No. 1.

Fort Stradler 14th July, 1777, 8 o'clock.

Dr Col.

This minute Alex'r Clegg came in great haste, who escaped the shot of a number of Indians while we were getting ready to go after them John March and Jacob Jones came in, & say that they think they saw at least 20, & followed them, but they escaped. The Indians fired at Jacob Farmers House, Two men and a Boy were kil'd, a young woman & two children missing. It is supposed that he is killed, & Nathan Wirley & two of Jacob Jones's Children & a Daughter of Farmer's, we shall march after them in less than an hour. The truth may be relied on.

JOHN MINOR Capt.

Directed,
To Col. Morgan.

No. 2.

A message from Capt. John Killbuck to Col. Morgan.

Cuchaghunk, June 7, 1777.

Brother,

We know not yet that our Unkles the Wyandots have started from home, six days ago we sent two of our Young men to Wandechales, Town to tell them to come here, that we wanted to speak to them; as Capt. White Eyes and Wingeman are gone to you to consult with you, when we hear from you at their ret'n we shall send again to the Wyandots.

Brother,

This is to let you know that a party of Wapanaws, Mohickons, and Munsies are gone to strike you, Pluggy's son is the Captain of them, the whole of them is nine men.

Brother,

They did not come by our Town, if they had we would have stopped them, but they went past & they intend to call at none of our Towns but to go on & cross the Kittanning & go on the waters of Turtle Creek, where the people are a living thick and not afraid, so we beg of you that you will let your children know of it.

—

No. 8.

Extract of a Letter from Captain Samuel Meason, dated

Fort Henry, June 8, 1777.

"Yesterday between the hours of five & six o'clock in the afternoon as a few of Capt. Vanmeter's Comp^y were fishing about half a mile from this fort up Wheeling Creek; a certain Thomas McCleary & one Lanimore being some distance from the others, were fired on by a Party of Indians to the Number of 6, 7, or 8 Guns, of which the several Persons near do not agree, as some say 8, or upwards Lanimore and others gave the alarm. I went to the place and found Tracks but difficult to ascertain the number of Indians. McCleary's shoe being found which he wore when he rec'd the wound, we presently found him killed & scalped, he had run about 300 yds, from the Creek. Night coming on by the time that we were satisfied of its being Indians. I proposed to set out this morning by day light, in Pursuit & have drawn out of Capt. Virgin's Company 8 men so that we amount to 30 men well equipt, & do cross the river at this place, as they seemed by their Tracts to bend their direction down the river & purpose to pursue them to the last extremity & Hazard. I sett off at 8 this morning, and flatter myself that you will not disapprove our Proceeding, but call on me, if any occasion should require, & as I may not return to the ensuing Council at Catfish, I take this opportunity to return your Honour, the strength of my comp^y which consists of 50 men of which forty five are in good order, & furnished for going on any emergency, & expedition, that may be necessary.

I am with great

respect y^r Honours

most obed^t & hble Servt

SAM'L. MEASON.

Directed.

Brigd^r Gen. Hand.

No. 4.

Cuchackunk, July 7th, 1777.

Dr Sir,

I wrote to you the 2d Inst and now Capt. White Eyes desireth me to inform you, in his name what passed here since that & what intelligence we got from over the Lake. In my last I mentioned to you that Messengers were sent to Pluggys Town & Sandusky, who after they had sett off soon met on their way with a party of 24 Warriors, Mingoes, some Wyondots & Mohickons, to whom they spoke & told them that they were sent to them to speak with them in a friendly Manner, and to remember them of ancient Friendship, that they were glad to meet them but sorry to see them with Tomahawks in their hands ready to strike their Brethren the Virginians. They told them likewise that all the Nations were for peace, & only they who were but a few, were the cause of all these disturbances. That their Cousins the Delaw were desired by the Wyondots the Six Nations, Shawanees, by their father over the Lake, & their Brethren the Virginians, to admonish them to leave off Striking their Brethren any more, Said, "We therefore desire you to consider your Women & Children & to have pity on them. We take the Tomahawks out of your Hand and will bury it, only take hold of our friendship." The Warriors Capts (there was three of them) answered that they were glad to hear their good Speech, but that it was not their own doing going to War,—that they had orders from the six Nations to do so, which they could prove, for they had speeches at home from their Chiefs, and besides that they had certain news from over the Lake, that the Governor at Detroit had delivered the Tomahawk which was sent from the King of England to all the Nations which they also had taken hold of, that this was the reason they were in haste to strike now. The Warriors after that marched on & came to Cuchackunk when Capt. White Eyes kept them a Day & Spoke more to them, yet they would not be stopped but marched towards Wheeling, another Party they said were getting ready to go towards the Fort or thereabouts. The messengers after that proceeded on their Journey to the Wyondots when they met John Montour coming from Detroit of whom they had some intelligence how matters are, and turned back again. John Montour bringeth News that the Wyondots would come here soon, that they heard they were to go to the treaty at Pittsburgh which they were not willing to do, that they would come to Cuchackunk according to their promise, & if their Brother the Big Knife wanted to see them & speak with them he should come there. He informed us likewise of a Treaty having been held with the Indians at Detroit, but doth not tell much what had been transacted there, because the Wyondots as he saith had told him not to tell about it until they should come, then they would relate all that had passed. Capt. White Eyes tells me to inform you that he had a little Intelligence of some secret bad

design against the white people, which hath its rise from the six Nations, that he expected to hear more of the Matter when the Wyandots come, & then he will inform you further of the matter. As I heard of it likewise and alredy mentioned so much I will explain it a little further, a very large belt from the six Nations of an uncommon size & figure had been sent to the Wyandots secretly, they say about 16 yrs ago, of which but very few knoweth, & shall not be known until all the Nations have joined and agreed to make war against the white people; which belt they have yet & mention was made of it at the Treaty at Detroit, when the Govr or Commander as Montour saith having painted & dressed himself in the Indian manner, said to the Nations then assembled that he would join them in that cause, & presented a large black belt to the Indians, painted red, with small Iron Tomahawks fixed to it, & desired them all to take hold of it, that all who were present took the belt, but after they had consulted the Wyondot Chief deliv'd it to the Chipwa Chief, & told him that he was a stronger Man than him, & that he should have the belt in his care. The Chipwa Chief refused to take it and said that the Wyondats were looked upon as the Head Nation, & therefore what they should conclude the rest would likewise agree to, upon this the Wyondot Chief took the belt, gave it back to the Govr & said as he was such a strong Man & encouraged them to go to war agst the Virginians he should make the Beginning, go before & strike first then they would follow him also, so far it came with the affair. Further we learn that the Wyandot Chief was going to Niagara & others was to be sent here to Cuchackunk, when they come they will send a messenger before to give the Delaws Notice of their coming. Capt. White Eyes would have you therefore to consider about the matter as it is certain enough that the Wyandots will not come to the Fort, either come yourself here or send somebody to transact Business with them. If you should want some of our People to bring you safe here you must let them know of it as soon as possible or send word with the Bearer to Kaskaskunk who livith there, that some of those Indians may go with you or whom you shall send.

I am Sir,

Yr very Hble servt,

D. ZEISBERGER.

Directed,

To Col. Geo. Morgan.

No. 5.

Dr Parents

This comes to let you know our distressed situation at present. Last Saturday Night the Indians came & drove off my two horses, & two of Joseph Tumblestons, shot a Mair of his dead & took a valuable Mair of John Harnesses & one large Horse of Samuel Harris & one of Zaphiniah Blackfords, & some young Creatures & with their arrows shot four of Mr. Zodgers's Cattle & two of Yeates Conwells, the cattle came home with the arrows sticking in them 12 inches, which cut a shocking aspect; upon which we immediately turned out all that was fit for action, which was only 23, leaving not 8 effectuall men in the fort, & went down the river to the Mouth of fish Creek, by water & then crossed the Ohio, & marched by land to Sun fish Creek, & then took the Tracks of the Indians and it was partly dark the road was plain & followed up the Creek by Moonshine a few miles with great hopes of overtaking them, & discovered their fire & as we were surrounding them, John McClean's gun went off by accident & they returned the fire smartly & only one of our men were in proper view of the Indians, who shot twice and they then fled from their Camp, & scolded us for some time, we imdiately took possession of a hill that joined their camp & discovered two more fires, & not thinking ourselves sufficient for an attack, we retreated & got a reinforcement & sallied down & went up the Creek, but finding they were two days gone we concluded to cross to our side of the River, & look for some yt we expected on that side, we took the advantage of a rifle, two of our Canoes being advanced close to the shore in order to Land, the Indians fired their shot as thick as hail upon them, our men all fell flat in the Canoes only two that steered and pushed back under cover of our guns, & got safe back to the savage shore without the Loss of a man, we exchanged many shot but to no purpose we then pushed up & crossed the river below fish creek, & lay on our arms until morning, & found a number of tracks coming up the river which we followed with all speed to our fort & was agreeably surprised to find them a party of Capt. Pigman's Comp'y that had been at the little Canawa, & So you wont fail to come down with five or six horses with all speed to help us up to your Parts. The Sign of the Indians is very numerous over the Ohio, having numbers of Camps, & one large bark camp below fish Creek. I was in both actions & saw the signs myself.

MORGAN JONES,

Grave Creek.

Dr Sir,

I am now at Girard's fort with 12 men only, & I am intirely without ammunition, as also without my full Quota of men, I hope you will send by Van Sweringen some ammunition and flints & as the times is so hazardous I hope the men may be ordered to come here immediately as the People are much put to it to get their harvest up the Creek, & it's not in my power to go on a scout with so few men & leave men to guard the People.

I am Sir,

Yr Hble Servt,

WM. CROSS.

Fort Girard, July 20, 1777.

Directed,

Col. Z. Morgan.

P. S.

Sir,

I am under the necessity to acquaint you that the men are very unwilling to go out from any of the Stations on a scout without flour, & as there is none to be had at any of the mills here, for want of water, I should take it as a favour if you would give an order for a thousand or 1500 wt of flour from either Willsons or Wardins mills, as I see no way of doing without.

I am Sir, Y'rs &c.,

JOHN CORBLY.

Monongalia, Copy ss.

Richd Ashcraft & Thomas Carr, two of the Spies, came before James Chew, one of the Magistrates for the said Co'ty, and made oath that on Thursday Evening the 17 Inst., they discovered on the head waters of Buffaloe Creek, which to the best of their Knowledge appeared to them to be of the Enemy & that from the sign of the said tracks their number might be about 7 or 8, that the said tracks were making towards the Monongahalia River, & appeared to be gone the said day.

JAMES CHEW.

July 19, 1777.

Supreme Executive Council to Board of War, 1777.

In Council, July 24th, 1777.

Sir,

The Council receiv'd your letter respecting two twelve Pound Cannon belonging to this State which Gen. Knox* has applyd for to be sent to Head Quarters—they are sorry they cannot with propriety grant the Generals request, for if the Enemy should Invade this State we shall be greatly distress'd for the want of Cannon—the Council are at a loss to know where to procure Cannon for the Works at Billingsport, and other places of defence, in case of Invasion, and wish your Honourable Board could assist them in furnishing those Works at least, with as many as may be necessary.

With much respect,

I am, Sir,

Your very Hum'l Servant.

Directed,

Richard Peters, Esq., Secretary to the Board of War.

Instructions to Cap. John Hunn, 1777.

In Council, July 24, 1777.

Sir,

By Intelligence re'd this Day from Shrewsbury, the Enemys ships to the number of 240 & upwards, (including all sizes,) with Troops on Board, left Sandy Hook yesterday morning and stood out to Sea stearing all the Day a southeast course with very little exception, under a very easy sail, in three Divisions—as it is of the utmost consequence that Gen. Washington have the Earliest Intelligence what part of the Continent they intend to land their Troops on, as well as that this Council should know it, and confiding in your attachment to the Cause of Freedom & in your abilities and activity, the Council request you to make the best of your way to the Sea shore and observe what course the Enemys ships stear, & their numbers, and if they have Troops on Board—endeavor also to find out what part of the Continent they purpose to land on—In forming a Judgment of this important matter every circumstance should be maturely considered—for there is no doubt but the Enemy expect we are watching their motions, and will endeavor to deceive all in their power—as soon as you are convinced beyond a doubt where they mean to attack send off a person in whom all confidence can be

* See page 439.

put, to Gen. Washington, the nearest rout, with as particular an account as may be in your power to relate—repeat to the General your intelligence by another Express or two, and as much oftener as you may think proper, lest by any accident the first should miscarry—we also request that you will give this Council the earliest intelligence by express, which you may hire for the purpose, taking care not to trust any but such as are known to be firmly attached to the American cause—In order that you may meet with every assistance so as to enable you to perform this business with expedition, we have procured a Certificate from the War Office, directed to all Officers, Magistrates, &c., to be aiding & assisting to you & those that may accompany you on this important affair—it may be proper to keep the business you are going upon as much a secret as possible as you pass thro' New Jersey. Relying on your activity & zeal

I remain,

with respect,

Sir,

your very hum. serv't.

State Board of War to Pres't Wharton, 1777.

Pennsylvania War Office, July 24th, 1777.

Sir,

Captain Hercules Courtney informs this board that the last detachment of Colonel Proctors Regiment was to march this day, in consequence of which, Fort Island will be left without a Guard. We thought it our duty to inform the Honorable Council thereof, and beg leave to suggest the propriety of sending a Company of the Militia from Billingsport to mount Guard at that place, as the ordinance & stores there are of considerable value.

I have the Honor to be

with great respect,

your Excellency's

most Obedient Servant,

RICH. BACHE, Chairman.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, junr, Esqr.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GEN'L WASHINGTON TO CONGRESS, CAMP AT RAMUPANG, 3 MILES FROM THE CLOVE.

July 25, 1777.

"The amazing advantage the enemy derive from their ships and the command of the water, keeps us in a state of constant perplexity and the most anxious conjecture. We are not yet got informed of their destination. Things being thus circumstanced, and various opinions as to their real object prevailing among us, some supposing it to be Philadelphia, others the North River, and others an expedition more easterly, I would submit it to Congress whether the militia of the neighbouring counties should not be immediately called to the first, or at Chester—the lower counties at Wilmington. This measure appears to me highly expedient, & no objection can lie against it of sufficient validity to prevent it. Should the Enemy's real design be against Philadelphia, & they have favourable winds, their voyage will be made in a short time, when it may be too late to obtain their aid & to arrange them properly for defence, supposing them to come in. I am now induced to recommend this measure, as the several objects we have to attend to necessarily oblige this army to continue at a considerable distance from that place, till their intentions are better understood, and as they might, by a sudden and rapid push, attempt to effect some material capital stroke before we could get there, unless there is a respectable force to oppose them. The report of a force, especially if it is any wise respectable, let it be of what sort it may, will have some influence on their conduct, & may prevent enterprizes that would otherwise be undertaken."

Extract.

CHA'S THOMSON, Sec^y.

DEPOSITION JEREMIAH LOUGHEAD, 1777.

Philad^a, ss. Personally come before me, James Young, Esqr, one of the Justices, &c., Jeremiah Loughead, & made oath that some time about the first day of this Ins^t, July, when he was in Westmoreland County, he was present when heard a Neighbour of his ask Michael Hoffnagle, late Deputy Prothoniture of said County, for some necessary papers that were in the office, who made answer that he would Deliver up all loose papers to those that wanted them, but the Books of Publick Records he would not Deliver to any Person whatever until he was forced so to do, and that he intended to carry

said Records to Lancaster, which this Deponent verily believes he has done.

JEREMIAH LOCHRY.*

Sworn the 26th July, 1777, before me,

JA'S YOUNG.

JOHN HUNN TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Cape May, July 26, 1777.

Sir,

We got to the Sea Shore at two oclock yesterday Six Miles west of Little Eg harbour, and then Came to Great Eg harbour & Crossed over, & have Not Been able to Gain any Intelligence of the fleet. I Now am Going to the pitch of the Cape, as theare is Lite Southerly winds, in probebillity they will keep wide of the Land till they Come up With our Cape. I am now at Capt. Stillwells, whare theares Mr Slater, Master of the Roebucks tender with Six of his Men taken in theare Boat with all arms, if any thing ofers Meterial I shall send of Expr's Immediately.

I remain with Respect, Sir,

your humble Servent,

JOHN HUNN.

Mr. Stites Brings this.

Directed,

Thomas Wharton, jun., Pres't Governor, Philadelphia.

NICHOLAS STILLWELL TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

To the Honorable Board of Warr.

Gentlemen,

On Fryday between the Hours of One & Two o'Clock P.M., came to my House Miles Henry and William Dodge, formerly belonging to the Roe Buck & made the following Report from due Examination, viz:

They Came into Corson's Inlet, situate Between the Five Mile Beach and Pecks Beach, about Sun Rise on Fryday, and put into a small Creek by the Name of Chesapeake Fish, putting in at the West end of Pecks Beach in a Whale Boate under the Command of

* See authority to demand them, p. 455. Also Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 252.

Thomas Slater & Roland Edwards chief Pioles, with three Hands besides the Two Deserters, the Names of the three are William Hatch, James Hornett, John Jackson, they all belonging to the Brig Stanley, Richard Witworth, Commander.

From their information I conesived it my indispensable Duty with all possable speed to dispatch a Detachment to take the said Whale Boate, Which Detachment arrived on the West end of Pecks Beach s^d afternoon about five o'Clock under the Command of Major Enoch Stillwell, who by certain Intrege took the Whole Crue with Boate & Arms &c., an Acount of which I here enclose.

I beg leve to informe you by what Means the two Deserters made their escape, they whare placed as Centery to Guard the others while they took a Nap, Dureing which they made their escape.

I shall as soon as possable immediately convey them to Philadelphia under proper Guard.

Inter——

I remain
your Most Oedient
Humble Servent,
NICH^le STILLWELL, Col.

NB. Seven Men Compleated the expedition.

Cape May, July 26th, 1777.

—

An Account of the Arms, &c., taken from the Enemy on Fryday July 25, 1777.

6 Musketts.
6 Boardg Pistols.
5 Cutlashes & 1 Scabbard.
6 Cartarage Boxes Compleate.
2 Swivels.
1 Spie Glass.
1 Can, with Ball in.
1 Worm, 1 Spung, 1 Rammer.
1 Case with 5 Bottles of Powder.
1 Bottle Rum, & Two empty Ones.
1 Priemg Horne.
12 Swivel Cartarages.
5 Small Bundles of Muskett Cartarages.
1 Compass.
1 Whale Boate.
1 Sale.
6 Oars.

Col. Thomas Proctor to President Wharton, 1777.

Philad^a, July 26th, 1777.

Sir,

I beg leave to inform you that the Company of Artillery under Captn Courtnay's Command, is ordered to march for Head Quarters, to Morrow Morning, which nothing prevents at this time but Cash to pay off the Men; and as there is not Cash in the Hands of the Pay Master for that purpose, by reason of his having already clear'd off that part of the Regiment who have march'd, not having made that stoppage by you intended, for the four Months past, owing to the great disorder that prevailed amongst the Soldiery on Acc^t of the hardships they labour'd under for want of almost every Necessary,—hope, therefore, you will see the necessity, and Order the Stoppage you have made to the first Instant to be refunded to him, by which he will be enabled to discharge his Duty and prevent further murmuring. Your Compliance will infinitely oblige

Sir, your most devoted

and very humble Servt,

THOS. PROCTOR.

Directed,

To The President of the Honble Penn^a Board of War.

Commission to search for and seize County Records, 1777.

In the Name & by the &c.

To John Hubly, Michael Hubly, & William Henry, of the Burrough of Lancaster, Esqr.

Whereas, in and by an act of General Assembly of this Commonwealth, passed on the twenty first day of March last, entitled "An act authorizing the President and Council to appoint judges to hold City Courts, and for other purposes therein mentioned," it is enacted That the president and Council be authorized and impowered to take such measures to procure the books, records, papers and seals belonging to, or in use of the office of Prothonotary of any county in the state, as to them may seem necessary. And, Whereas, it appears to the Supreme Executive Council of this Commonwealth on oath that the books, records and papers, or some of them belonging to the office of Prothonotary of the County of Westmoreland have been unlawfully & clandestinely removed and secreted, and that there is reason to suspect that they are removed to, & secreted in the Burrough of Lancaster. And Whereas, great inconveniencies must arise to the inhabitants of the said County of Westmoreland from the

removal and secreting of the Books, Records & papers, and it is highly necessary that the power given by the said act should be put in force for the recovery of the same—These are therefore to authorize and impower you, the said John Hubly, to search for, demand, take & receive, the said books, records, papers and seals, or such of them as may be found; and for the more effectual recovery of the same, you are to apply to and demand of Michael Hubly, Esq., and William Henry, Esq., justices of the peace for the County of Lancaster, for their special warrant, enabling the sheriff of the said County, or any other peace officer, to enter, in the day time, into any dwelling or other house within the s^d County of Lancaster, and there to make diligent search for the s^d records, Books, papers & seals, and if the same or any of them be there found, to bring them before the s^d justices, in order that they may be delivered into the custody of you, the s^d John Hubly. And you, the said Michael Hubly and William Henry, Esq., are hereby commanded & authorized to grant the search warrant before mentioned to search any particular house or houses as aforesaid, due cause to suspect that the said records, &c., or any of them be concealed therein, being to you shown. And for so doing, this shall be to you and each of you, a sufficient authority and warrant.

Given under the lesser seal of the said Commonwealth, at Philadelphia, this twenty-sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & seventy-seven.*

Sup. Exec. Council to Hon. J. McKinley, 1777.

Philadelphia, 27th, July, 1777.

Sir,

The Council of this State, empowered by the Legislature for that purpose, have taken measures to have the Cattle & Horses which are pastured on the Island and Shores of Delaware, within our limits driven off and effectually secured from the reach of the Enemy, should they approach the Delaware. It is proper you should be made acquainted with this precaution, which seems to be an expedient of great importance & necessity. The business here is committed to different setts of persons, classed & allotted to parts of the Shore, in order to make the execution practicable in the hour of need; for it is only intended to be executed in case of extremity.

I am Sir,

with great respect

Your most obed^t humble servant,

Directed,

Hon. John McKinley, Esq.

* See Col. Rec., vol. XI, p. 252—see page 416.

To Committee for Driving off Cattle, 1777.

Philadelphia, July 27, 1777.

Gentleman,

There is certain intelligence of the arrival of part of the enemys Fleet at Egg harbour, and there is too much reason to expect that they are bound for the Delaware. It is therefore necessary that the Committee for driving off Cattle be on their guard and ready to perform that duty, when their judgment shall point.

I am &c.,

T. Y. M. *

President Wharton? to Col. B. Galbraith, 1777.

Philadelphia, 28 July, 1777.

Sir.

I write to you in a most pressing exigency. The Enemy baffled in New Jersey, are by all accounts, shifting their ground, & intent on invading this State. A fleet of 240 sail of Ships of War and Transports actually sailed from the bay of New York, with a fair wind on Tuesday last; & on Friday a very great part of this fleet were seen on the Coast of New Jersey, within 8 or 10 leagues of the Bay of Delaware, striving to gain an entrance against a head wind. The destination of this powerful armament, admits not a doubt.

Genl. Washington assured that the Enemy mean to invade Pennsylvania, will come as quickly as may be to our aid, with a part of his army; for it is absolutely necessary that he leave a sufficient force where he has lately encamped, to withstand the alarming progress of General Burgoine. But Genl. W——— is yet at a considerable distance.

In this situation, when every *prudent* strenuous effort seems necessary, the Council, urged by Congress, call upon you, & require you to embody and march immediately for Chester, in this State, the first Class of your Militia; taking care to send down such Companies, or parts of Companies, as can be forthwith got ready, without waiting for the rest. With these please to send only a due proportion of officers; that is to say, two Commis'd officers only to thirty privates; 3 to no less number than 40. I hope that the public spirit & emulation of the good people of your County, will dispose them to shew themselves as equal, & as determined to defend their Country, as the Militia of New Jersey have lately proved themselves to be. It is expected especially as the great and important labour of harvest is now over, that there will be little use made of substitu-

See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 253, 255.

tion, & that the respectable freeholders will push out in person. However, I recommend to you to proceed, as to this duty, on a new plan. To pay men a large reward beforehand, for two months service, when it is by no means certain that two months duty will be necessary, seems extravagant. There is some risque too of desertion. Hiring at a price by the week, not exceeding two months, seems to the Council, much better in these respects; besides the mode in practice requires such prodigious advances of the public Treasure, as are highly inconvenient. The expenditures of this kind in Bucks & Philadelphia Counties, made some months since, have not yet found their way back; though the Lieutenents are now levying them with diligence. *

A draught of Philad'a County marched before harvest, into Jersey. One of Bucks has guarded the fords of Delaware for two months. A second class of Bucks, two from the City and one of Chester, have occupied for some time and assisted in finishing the defences of the Delaware between the Town & Chester. Other Counties have now opportunity of exerting their virtue in defence of all that which a freeman esteems valuable. Permit me to say that the Council has particular dependance on your attention, dispatch & vigor. You will be under a necessity of sending down Blankets for the whole, & all the Arms that can be come at. The authority given you to disarm the refusers of the Oath of Allegiance to the State, is in this respect worthy your attention.

Directed,

To Col. B. Galbraith Esq.

Instructions to the Lieutenants of the Counties, 1777.

In Council.

Philadelphia, 28th July, 1777.

Sir,

The following lines come to you from Council in the most pressing exigency of public affairs, in which the very existence of this State is threatened.

The enemy, baffled in New-Jersey, are, by every account, at this moment exerting themselves to invade Pennsylvania; in short, we hourly expect to hear of their arrival in Delaware. On Tuesday last 250 vessels sailed out of the bay of New-York, with a fair wind This fleet, without doubt, transports a large army, and is composed

* "In the former, about £15 was the price of substitution. It was higher in this County. In Town, food and labour are always much dearer. Here the hire rose to £25: High prices these; but in no sort comparable to the extravagant rates you hold out to view. It is reasonable to think, that the peculiar season, in which you looked for substitutes, occasioned such enormous demands to be made."

in part of ships of war. Seventy of them were seen on Friday within eight or ten leagues of Cape May, the north eastern Cape of Delaware, and by their dispositions seem desirous to effect an entrance into the bay, labouring against a contrary wind. Some accounts arrived since, say that 190 sail at different times had passed by Egharbour, before ten o'clock in the morning yesterday. Their destination, after this, admits of no doubt.

General Washington, fully assured that the enemy have this State for their object, is on a hastened march for this place, with such parts of his army as can be spared for this service; for he must provide also for the security of the country he leaves against the alarming approach of General Burgoyne. But General Washington is yet distant; it is therefore absolutely necessary that a considerable part of the natural force of the country be assembled without loss of time, and sent to Chester to join such Continental troops and Militia as are here, in opposing so far as is prudent and delaying the progress of the enemy, till the army can arrive.

In this circumstance we are desirous of procuring real aid with all possible dispatch. We would sollicit and authorise you to do it by all the lawful and effectual means in your power, but we wish to leave much to your prudence. It seems to us very desirable that all the hearty and able bodied men should be, if possible, drawn out. They might appear either personally in the Classes now called out, or as Substitutes for those who side with the foe, or are hindered by principle from bearing arms. In this view we direct and enjoin you to embody forthwith the of the Militia of county, and to send them down, as fast as you can make up a company of forty or fifty men, under a due proportion of Officers, to Chester, and that you will exert your utmost address and influence to induce able and hearty friends of the cause of our country, to join in and inspirit, by their example, in the manner hinted before, in this time of need, to repel this almost despairing enemy. We would hope, that now the very important work of harvest is finished, this plan may be not only practicable but easy. Council find great reason to be dissatisfied with the present mode of hiring Substitutes. The advance of large premiums for two months service, in the present case, seems unreasonable and absurd, when perhaps the duty may not be required for one; it tempts to desertion; and the drawing out of prodigious sums of public money, which would be necessary in that case, is highly inconvenient. If they would be engaged on a weekly hiring, for two months service as usual, would it not be much more advantageous to the service, and more equal between parties?

The expenditures of this kind in Bucks and Philadelphia counties, made some months since, have not yet found their way back, though the Lieutenants are now levying with diligence. In the former about fifteen pounds was the price of substitution. It was higher in this county. In town food and labour are always much dearer

—where the hire rose to twenty-five pounds—high prices these! It is reasonable to think that the approach of harvest occasioned such enormous demands to be made, which being now over, we hope that Substitutes may be had at a more reasonable rate.

As we can depend on the aid of the Militia of New Jersey, whose active and valorous example must provoke every honest breast to emulate the advantages, honour and success, which their prowess and spirit has obtained to their State and to themselves; as we shall be assisted by the Delaware State, and, we doubt not, by Maryland, we have every reason to expect that the foes of freedom may be easily resisted and suppressed, and the numerous evils, which would ensue on their success, may be prevented, if we be not wanting in this day of trial to ourselves and to posterity.

You are to order down with each company six pitching axes and ten shovels, which the Council will either pay for or return in good order; and you will be under a necessity of sending down blankets for the whole, and all the arms that can be come at. The authority given you to disarm the refusers of the oath of allegiance to the State, is, in this respect, worthy your attention.

Directed,

To Esq.,*
Lieutenant of the County of

The Council recommend to you to be particular in the manner of giving notice to the Militia to march, lest, when the money which may be paid for substitutes shall be demanded, they may plead want of form in the notice—which should be given, either to the person verbally or in writing, left at his usual place of abode, and in such manner that proof may be made of the notice having been given.

Br. Gen'l Potter to President Wharton, 1777.

Sir,

I have it in command from B. Gen'l Potter to make you a report of the Troops Quartered here, which I have the honor now to inclose† you.

I am Sir,
your Excellencies
most obedt Humᵉ Servt,
P. WIKOFF.

Billings Port,
July 28, 1777.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President of Pennsylvania.

* Thus far in a printed handbill—the other paragraph in MS.

† No inclosure was found in it.

Resolution of the Congress, 1777.

In Congress, July 28, 1777.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the executive council of the state of Pennsylvania to call out four thousand of the Militia in addition to those already called forth, and as their service is immediately wanted, that they call forth such as can be soonest collected.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec.*

Memorial of Committee for Driving off Cattle, 1777.

To The Honorable President of the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

The Representation of the Subscribers who, with others, they are Informed by Letter, are appointed to Drive off the live Stock on the frontiers of Chester County, when ever the enemy may approach,

Sheweth,

That upon A Meeting & Consideration of the Nature and Consequence of the Charge Committed to their Care they would Beg leave to Inform the Council that (in their opinion) the Number appointed for that purpose is too small to answer the Desired end, as Mr Ash & Mr Hervey cannot attend.

They therefore Request to Council would appoint two persons in their Stead, & Four members Additional.

The Subscribers supposing the Council Not to be so well acquainted with the Inhabitants, would beg Leave to Recommend the following Gentlemen as suitable persons, viz.: John Pearson, Nicholas Deihl, Isaac Hendrickson, Isaac Serrill, Harvey Lewis, & Jacob Richards. They do not mean, by this Request, to Dictate to the Council, but to Recommend such persons as they apprehend would be most Suitable, & if the Council could agree with the Subscribers in Opinion, they would be happy in the Choice.

They have therefore to Request the Council would acquaint them with their Opinion of the matter proposed, also to furnish them with the Resolve of Assembly by which they are appointed, & a small sketch by which to Direct their Line of Conduct.

SAM'L LEVIS.
W'M KERLIN.
SKETCH'Y MORTON.†

July 28th, 1777.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 254.
† See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 255.

Authority to Search for Books, Records, &c., 1777.

To Caleb Davis, Esquire, Prothonotary of the County of Chester, Pennsilvania.

Sir,

Whereas it is represented to the Supreme Executive Council of this Commonwealth that the Books, Records, papers & seals belonging to, or which have been used in the office of Prothonotary of the County of Chester; & also the Books, Records, & seals belonging to or which have been used in the office of Clerk of the Orphans' Court of said County, are now lodged in the dwelling of Henry Hale Graham of the Borough of Chester, in said County, Esquire; and whereas it is highly necessary, in this time of danger, the Enemy at present meditating an invasion of this State by the way of the Bay & River Delaware, on the bank of wh river said Burough is situated, that the said Books, Records, papers & seals should be removed to & secured at some place of greater safety; these are therefore to authorize, impower & require you the said Caleb Davis, Esquire, to enter the dwelling & outhouses of said Henry Hale Graham, Esquire, with proper & necessary assistants, in the day time, & there to make dilligent search for said Books, Records, papers & seals, & to take into your possession & remove the same to some suitable place in order to their security. And further you are required to make return to us of what you may do in execution of this precept.

Given under the lesser seal of the Commonwealth at Philadelphia this twenty-eighth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & seventy-seven.*

John Hunn to Pres't Wharton, 1777.

Cape May, July 29th, 1777.

Sir,

I wrote you the 26th† which I Make No dout you have Recev'd, & the Reasons you have had No Express Since is the weather have Been So thick this three days past that it has Been Impossible to Discover Wheather thear was a fleet of or Not, But the wind is Now at N: W. & the weather Verry Cleare & No fleet in sight, theares 2 Ships in horekill Rode 1 of the hen & chickens & 1 of at anchor of the five fathem Bank, if the fleet is Bound to Delaware By the accounts of the wind & Weather they have had No Chance to arrive hear yet, I have sent No Express to General Washington as it is hard to get horses for so Long a Journey, But if theare should Be a

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 254.

† See page 453.

fleet in sight Mr. Jones will go Express Immediately to head quarters.

Sir,

I remain your verry
humble serv't,
JOHN HUNN.

If you have any orders please Send By the Express.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, jun^r, President, Governer.

Indorsement,

Thursday Evening was the last time Cap. Hunn saw the Fleet—about 7 o'clock, P. M. Left the Cape Monday morning Day light & no sight of them.

JOSEPH KIRKBRIDE TO PRES'T WHARTON, 1777.

Sir,

Agreeable to the Direction given Col. Gill & Col. Lacey have sent down 100 Good Blankets, which is Exceed'y want'd in the Bucks County Battalion now at Billingsport.

As I shall Immediately give Information to the Command'g officer theire—make no doubt but application will soon be made to your Excelleney for them.

The remainder about 200 will (as soon as possible & agreeable to Order) be wash'd & put into the best Order for use.

I am your Exelencys most
Obedient Hum. Serv't,
JO. KIRKBRIDE.

July 29th, 1777.

Directed,

His Excelency Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President &c. of Pennsylvania.

JAMES READ TO V. P. BRYAN, 1777.

Sir,

This morning I had the Honour of receiving your Letter of Yesterday, expressing a Concern lest Juries should not be returned to our Sesions next Month. And I have the pleasure, Sir, of assuring you that there has been no Neglect here on this Head. I spoke in

Time to the Justices, and the Sheriff assures me that he has already summoned a considerable Part of the Juries, and shall in a Day or two have summoned the whole.

There are in our Gaol two Persons for counterfeiting the Continental Four Dollar Bills, and two for Horse Stealing; all of whom I committed some time ago, so that I think the Gentleman whom The Honourable The Council shall appoint Attorney General may attend to prefer & prosecute Bills against the two latter.

The Justices in their May Sessions appointed a Clerk pro Tempore, and at the next Sessions will not fail to recommend three Persons, that the Council may commission one as Clerk of Sessions.

I have the Honour to be with great respect,
Sir,
Your most obedient &
most humble Serv't,
JAMES READ.

Reading, Berks, July 30, 1777.

Directed,

To the Honourable George Bryan, Esquire, Vice President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia.

Joseph Blewer to Pres't Wharton, 1777.

State Navy Board, July 30th, 1777.

Sir,

The Congress has impower'd the Continental Navy Board to purchase twelve of Vessells to be fitted out as fire Ships, said board has apply'd to us to fit out those Vessells, which we apprehend could not be done unless you approve of the Measure, which you'l be pleased to signify as soon as you conveniently can. We have combustibles ready prepared for four Vessels, and they can all be chang'd in the course of a week, and for the sake of the safety of this State wou'd willingly undertake it.

By order of the Board,
JOSEPH BLEWER, C. M.*

P. S.—The Board is in great streights for want of money—necessity has drove us to borrow upwards of One Thousand pounds in order to stop the clamours of some Workmen.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Junr, Esqr.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 255.

Jo. Kirkbride to President Wharton.

July 30th, 1777.

Sir,

The Bearer hereof Capt. John Wood, will wait on the Council for 100 Blankits Sent down for the Bucks County Militia which I beg may be order'd to be Delivered to Capt. Wood, who will Immediately take them down to Billingsport where they are Exceed'ly wanted.

I am your Excellency's

most Respectful &

Obed^t humble Servt

JO. KIRKBRIDE.

Directed.

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

℘ Favour }
Capt. Wood. }

Indorsements.

From Col. Kirkbride, rec'd July 31, 1777, the Blankets within mentioned were continued in the hands of Col. McMasters, who brought them down.

Referred to the Board of War who are requested to furnish the Blankets if in their possession.

T. MATLACK, Sec.

Henry Fisher to State Navy Board, 1777.

Wednesday Morning, 10 o'clock, July ye 30th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

By this Express you will be certain that the Fleet is in sight, and at this time about 4 Leagues from the Light House, there is 228 (two hundred and twenty eight) sail, the wind is about N .N .E., and they bear about S. E., from the Cape they to all appearance will not be in till this afternoon.

I am in Haste,

Gentlemen yours

at Command,

HENRY FISHER.

Directed

To The Honourable the State Navy Board, Phila.

Indorsement.

Received at Chester Fifteen minutes before six o'clock, and for warded at 6 o'clock.

T. MIFFLIN.

Col. Jacob Morgan to President Wharton, 1777.

Reading, July 30th, 1777, 10 o'clock A. M.

Sir,

Just now I rec'd your Excellency's Letter, dated in Council at Philadelphia ye 28th Instant on the present most pressing Exigency of Affairs, when our enemies are daily expected to invade this State, and requiring & enjoining me forthwith to embody one class of the Militia of Berks County, and send them, with proper Officers, to Chester. I assure your Excellency that I shall not fail to exert myself to fulfill every expectation of your Excellency, the Council and my Country; and I shall this instant send to the Colonel's to meet me here as soon as possible; and that nothing shall be wanting in me to shew the warmest Zeal in the Great Cause, wherein this and the other States of America are engaged against our common enemy, who mean our utter Destruction. I shall attend to every Article of your excellency's Letter; and I am also fully persuaded of the Zeal and active spirit of the Several Colonels on this occasion. I cannot but apprehend great Difficultios in disarming those who have refused to take the oath of Allegiance, and have thought and do so still think that a proper number of the militia in pay for that purpose and for guarding the Medicinal Store, and whatever else belongs to the continent, here is highly necessary.

I am,

May it please your Excellency,

Your excellency's most obedient humble Servt.

JACOB MORGAN.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jun^r Esq., President of the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia.

☞ Express.

Col. Jacob Morgan to President Wharton, 1777.

Reading, July 30, 1777, 6 o'clock P. M.

Sir,

I cannot neglect to inform your excellency that many of the Inhabitants of Reading are very uneasy that any Prisoners of War should be here, where there's no Committee, they having dissolved themselves last week, as they think a committee not consistant with an established civil Government; nor is there any Guard. It is thought that any Town on the east side of the Susquehanna is an

improper place for Prisoners of War, who have many of them been long here and have settled correspondence with some persons in Philada., from whom they receive Letters by post and write answers by some here with whom they have made acquaintance, when any such go to the City. I think they may on this side, Susquehannah easily correspond with the enemy when they invade this State. Your excellency will be so good as to pardon this freedom which my Duty led me into.

I am,

Your Excellency's

most Obedient

humble Servant.

JACOB MORGAN.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jr., Esquire President of the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia.

JOHN HUNN TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Cape May, July 30th, Eleven o'clock.

Sir:

The fleet to the Number of 30 sail is Now in Sight, upon which I have sent of Mr. Bennet Expres, as it is Not Seven Miles farther to head quarters By Philadelphia; I've not sent Mr. Jones of yet, but as soon as I am convinst they are bound up the Bay, I shall send the Express, but as there is but few that Nowes the way through the Jerseys, the Intilligence will go By Philadelphia as quick as any way.

Sir, I remain yours,

JOHN HUNN.

The wind is E. S. E., & the Ships is now standing of.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, Presedent Governor.

JOHN HUNN TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Cape May, July 30th, 5 P. M.

Sir,

The fleet is standing in a Gain, 45 sail in sight, & more of Cors will be in Sight; The wind at E., which is More in theare favour. it appears to me they are bound up our Bay, but I may be deceᵈ. Mʳ Jones comes of to Morrow Morning by way of Philadelphia, as going through Menmouth is attended with Dainger of being Stoped, as the people heare inform Me.

from Sir, yours,

JOHN HUNN.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, Junʳ, preasedent Govenar.

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1777.

In Congress, July 30, 1777.

Whereas the States of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware are in danger of an immediate invasion from the enemy's army, a powerful fleet being daily expected within the capes of Delaware, and there is the strongest reason to suppose that the enemy will endeavour to secure without delay all the cattle, horses, and teams, which are exposed to the water, in order to subsist their army, and facilitate their military operations; and, whereas the preventing of this measure is not only highly conducive to the general weal, but will ultimately tend to secure the property of the good people of these states from cruel ravages.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the executive powers of the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, to cause the horses, waggons, carts, cattle, and other live stock contiguous to the bay and river Delaware, to be removed into the interiour parts of the country, whenever the arrival of the enemy's forces at the capes shall announce the necessity and propriety of such a measure.

Resolved, That all continental officers and officers of militia in continental pay in the said states, do afford the said executive powers such aid and assistance in performing this service as they may require.

Extract from the minutes,

CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.

James Benezet to T. Matlack, 1777.

New Town, Bucks Co., 31th July, 1777.

Sir,

According to my directions from Colonel Kirkbride I have sent by Samuel Rees, Waggoner, One Hundred of the best & cleanest Blankets of those collected in our County, the remainder, about 200, shall send (this Morning) to Thomas Jinks's Fulling, who says if the Weather continues Dry he will compleat them in a Week. At which time shall expect Orders for the delivery of them.

I am with real regard,

Sir, your Most Humble Servt,

JOHN BENEZET.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esq., Secretary to the Honorable the Executive Council, Philadelphia.

With 100 Blankets.

Indorsed,

From James Benezet, rec'd July 31 1777.

NB. The Blankets were continued in the hands of Coll. James McMasters for the Militia of Billingsport.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, July 31, 1777.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pensylvania, forthwith to make prisoners such of the late crown & proprietary officers and other persons in and near this city as are disaffected or may be dangerous to the publick liberty & send them back into the country, there to be confined or enlarged upon parole as their characters & behaviour may require.

That it be recommended to the said Executive Council to remove under guard all the state prisoners in the goal of this city to some safe place back in the Country, & that they cause the guards to be doubled until the prisoners can be removed.

That it be recommended to the said Executive Council immediately to order two companies of Militia to strengthen the guard over the prisoners at Lancaster, & also two companies of Militia to guard the prisoners at York town.

Extract from the Minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'ry.*

* See Aug. 1, 478, 479. Also Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 264.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, July 31st, 1777.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the executive authorities of each of the United States, to divide their respective States into districts, and to appoint a proper person in each district to recruit men to fill up the regiments raised in such State; that they take good security of the person so appointed for the faithful discharge of his duty, and rendering just accounts of all public monies that shall come to his hands; and that they allow for each able bodied recruit so raised, who shall enlist for three years, or during the war the sum of eight dollars in full for his trouble and expence; that where no provision for securing deserters has already been made by the laws of the State, they give to each person so appointed, full power to take up and secure all deserters that shall come within their respective districts, and, where force is necessary for this purpose, that they direct the officers of the militia to give such assistance as shall be required; that they allow him the sum of five dollars for every deserter so taken up and secured, in full for his trouble and expence therein. And for the encouragement of men to enter the service, they shall have liberty, at the time of their inlistment, to make choice of the regiment, troop or company in which they will serve, provided such regiment, troop, or company is not full, if it is, they may chuse any other regiment, troop, or company which is not full, which shall be entered against their names and returned to the officers appointed to receive such recruits, who shall, at the time they are sent to join their corps, transmit the same to the general or commanding officer.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the executive authorities of each of the United States to appoint convenient places of rendezvous in their respective States, for receiving recruits and deserters; and that they transmit to General Washington with as much expedition as possible, the names of such places of rendezvous, in order that proper officers may be sent to receive such recruits and deserters.

Resolved, That General Washington be directed to order all continental officers now absent from their corps, forthwith to join them, except only such as the general shall think necessary to receive recruits, and march them to the army.

By order of Congress.

JOHN HANCOCK, Presid^t.

Resolution of Congress 1777.

In Congress, July 31, 1777.

Resolved that the militia of the states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland be immediately called out to repel any invasion of the enemy in the said states.

Extract from the minutes.

CHARLES THOMSON, Sec'y.

State Board of War to President Wharton, 1777.

Pennsylvania War Office, July 31st, 1777.

Sir,

We beg leave to suggest to your honble Board the propriety of confining Mr. York, whom we have sent to you for examination, until you can be better informed of his intentions—his former conduct and Character will justify at this critical time such a step, should he even have come, as he says he has, with a view of throwing himself on the mercy of his Countrymen.

We have the honor to be

Your Excellency most obd^t Serv^ts.

By order of the Board.

RICHARD BACHE, Chairman.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Junr., Esquire.

Supreme Executive Council to Congress 1777.

To John Hancock, Esq.,

In Council, Philad^a, 31st July, 1777.

Sir,

The approach of the Enemy and the necessity of making every possible exertion, calls for large sums of money. The advances, pay and victualing of the embodied militia; the pay of Labourers at Billingsport; and the proper expense of this state in their naval and well as other departments has been very great. Council would

readily apply the late emission of Bills of Credit made by this state if they were finished. But much of this being ordered in small Bills it has been impossible to get them perfected fast enough to answer the present emergency. The Council, therefore, in these Circumstances, pray Congress to consider of the business that presses on Council, and to order 100,000 Dollars to be furnished for public purposes.*

Directed.

To the hnble John Hancock, Esq., P. C., July 31, 1777.

President Wharton to Colonel Wm. Henry, 1777.

In Council, July 31, 1777.

Sir,

As the enemy is approaching this state and arms are wanting to put into the hands of the militia to defend it—it becomes absolutely necessary that those who have not taken the oath of allegiance should be disarmed, and their arms made use of by those who are willing at the risque of their lives to defend their liberties and property.

I therefore, in compliance with a law of this state, request you will instantly disarm all those who have not taken the oaths aforesaid.

I am with respect, Sir,

Your very humble servant

T. W., Prs^t.

Directed,

To Col. William Henry, July 31, 1777.

Supreme Executive Council to Magistrates, 1777.

Philadelphia, In Council, July 31st, 1777.

Gentlemen,

This morning I have received certain intelligence that the Enemies Ships to the number of two Hundred and twenty eight sail was seen within a few leagues of the Light House yesterday about ten of the Clock, and it was expected they will get into the Cape in the afternoon, since that time the Wind has been very favourable for them. It becomes now absolutely necessary for us to be on our

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. xi, p. 256.

guard and do all we can not only to oppose the Enemy but put it out of their power to distress the good people of these States, I therefore request that you will immediately order Waggons out of your County to repair to this City for the purpose of removing Stores, Provisions, &c., &c., as you value the interest, happiness and peace of your County I intreat you to exert yourselves in this matter and forward them as fast as possible without waiting for any particular number to come together.

I am with respect,

Gent.,

your very Hum. Serv't,

Circular Letter to the Magistrates for Waggons.

PRESIDENT WHARTON TO THE COMMITTEE OF FIFTY, 1777.

In Council, July 31, 1777.

Gentlemen,

Having received certain intelligence that the enemy intend to invade this State, I beg leave to remind you of the absolute necessity for the immediate removal of all superfluous stores that are in the city. The very great advantage that will accrue to the enemy should they get possession of them, must appear so obvious to you that I am convinced I need not urge you to use every means in your power to effect the purpose for which you were appointed—assuring you at the same time that you shall have every assistance that is in the power of Council to afford.

I am, &c.,

T. W., Pres't.

Directed,

To the Gentlemen of the Committee of Fifty.

PRESIDENT WHARTON(?) TO THE COMMITEE FOR DRIVING OFF CATTLE, &c., 1777.

Philadelphia, 31st July, 1777.

Gentlemen,

By certain & positive accounts just received, I find that the Enemy's fleet, or the greater part of them were entering Delaware Bay yesterday morning. The Wind has been since, & still is, very favourable for their passage up. You must be sensible, that the

hour for removing the Cattle, horses, &c., approaches. Congress has extended the business committed to you, to Carts & Waggons; I therefore recommend to you the removal of these also.

It is now no time to enter into fresh calls upon your diligence & activity. In dependence on your best exertions, I remain,

Sirs,

Your most obedient serv't.

Directed.

To the Committee for driving off Cattle, &c.

Sup. Exe. Council to Lieutenants of Chester Co., 1777.

In Council, Philadelphia, July 31, 1777.

Sir,

I wrote to you on the 28 instant and ordered —— class of the Militia of your County to be immediately marched to Chester. This morning I have certain intelligence of the arrival of two hundred and twenty eight sail of the enemys ships at our Capes yesterday morning, they were then standing in for the bay—this renders it absolutely necessary that every exertion be used to have the Militia at Chester as soon as possible. It is unnecessary to urge any other motive to you than a regard to the salvation of our Country to induce you to take every measure for this purpose which is in your power, without a moments delay.

Volunteers, animated by the love of liberty and their Country, who may step forward on this great and important occasion before it may be their turn to go into the Field in the class to which they belong, and thereby render the most important service at this critical time, will be entitled to the highest esteem and respect and will most certainly meet with every countenance and encouragement which the Council can give. They will be entitled to same pay and rations with the Militia.

Directed,

Lieut. of the Counties from which the Militia were called 28 inst.

John Hunn to President Wharton, 1777.

Cape May, July 31st, 5 o'clock P. M.

Sir,

At Eight this Morning the fleet stood off Stearing E. N. E. & are Now out of Sight and have Been so this three hours, this Morning I was with many others of opinion they were Bound up the Delaware, But as they Could have Got in this Morning and did Not

I am Now of opinion they are Making a faint, If so they have a fresh of wind at S. S. W. which Will Carry them to the Eastward Verry fast. This is the fifth Express; I Beleave theare hole fleet was in sight tho' I Co'ld Count only one hundred & Ninety Sail, I shall send off an Express if the fleet appears, if Not I shall Come up My Self in a few Days.

Sir, I remain

With Respect, yours,

JOHN HUNN.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharten, Junr, President, Governer.

JOHN HUNN TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Cape May, August 1st, 5 P. M.

Sir,

I rote you yesterday at 5 P. M., that it appear'd that the Enemy were making a faint, but in one hour after the Express set off they appeared all standing in, one hundred and six sail I counted at 10 Last Night the wind came out at W. which was a head wind as they had got to the eastward of Cape May, but at twelve to day the wind came in at S. and there has been a fresh brease Ever since, and no fleet in Sight as quick as they are in Sight I shall dispatch an nother Express.

I Remain Your

humble Servant,

JOHN HUNN.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, junr President Governor, Philadelphia.

Memorial from Chester County, 1777.

To the Honourable Thomas Wharton Junr, Esqr, President of the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Sir,

Pursuant to the Request of the Honble Council of the Ninth of July last past, We the Subscribers, Justices of the Peace for the County of Chester, have this day met in Order to Nominate Proper Persons to take an Account of all the Wheat, Flour, Grain, and Other Stores in the County of Chester, within Twenty Miles Distance Westwrd of the River Delaware, and have, after due consideration, Return'd the Following Gentlemen, Viz.—John Wilson, Isaac Taylor, (Pennsbury,) George Currey, Charles Dilworth, Thomas McCall, Joshua Evans, James Ewing and James Lindsey, And for the Purpose of Billetting, and Providing for the Poor that may be Removed out of the City of Philadelphia, the following gentlemen, Viz.—Benjamin Bartholomew (of East Whiteland,) David John (Charles-town,) David Thomas (Vincent,) Michael Hallman (Pikeland,) Peter Crumbacker (Coventry) William James (East-Nantmell,) John Brown (West-Nantmell,) Thomas Evans (Uwchlan,) George Thomas (West Whiteland,) James Thompson (East-Caln,) John Fleming, (West-Caln,) Joseph Parker (Sadsbury,) Thomas Heslip & Samuel Futhey (for East & West Fallowfield,) William Wilson (Oxford,) William Poke (West Nottingham,) & David Whirry (East Nottingham,) Whom we Esteem to be men of Fidelity and Worthy of the Trust to be Reposed in them.

We are Sir,

With due Respect,

Yr Humbl Servts

ISAAC DAVIS,
JAMES MOORE,
DAN. GRIFFITH,
PHILIP SCOTT,
RO. SMITH,

Augt 1st, 1777.

RETURN OF THE NAMES OF PERSONS PROPER TO BE APPOINTED TO SEARCH FOR AND TAKE ACCOUNT OF FLOUR, &c., 1777.

To His Excellency the President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

The Return of the Magistrates of Philad^a County of the names of Persons proper to be appointed to search for & take Acc^t of Flour, &c.

William Dewees,
Phineas Roberts,
William Tolbert,
Jacob Wynkoop,
John Young,
John Inglis,
Lower Merion, Upper Merion, Blockley & Kingsessing.

George Nice,
Peter Smith,
George Leib,
Henry Neglee,
Jacob Weaver,
Northern Liberties.

Rudolph Neff,
John Miller,
John Helmes,
Samuel Potts,
Marshall Edwards,
Oxford, Lower Dublin & Byberry.

Samuel Mechlen,
Jacob Hall,
Frederick Mehl,
Charles Engle,
Wichart Miller,
Abraham Rex,
Peter Hinckell,
Joseph McClean,
Nathan Levering,
Germantown, White-Marsh, Roxborough, Springfield.

Matthew Ingram,
Rudolph Peky,
Nathaniel Thomas,
Thomas Wilson,
Bristol.

Samuel Leech,
Peter Rush,
John Collam,
Cheltenham & Abington.

James Stroud,
Conrad Callinger,
Andrew Crawford,
Plymouth & Norristown.

John Mann,
David Marple,
John Wynkoop,
Isaac Longstretch,
Martin Swenk,
Samuel Dunlap,
Upper Dublin, Moreland, Horsham, Gwynned & Montgomery.

Indorsed.

Read In Council, August 1, 1777. Ordered to lye on the Table.

T. M., Secy.

(Copy.) Warrant to Arrest Certain Persons, 1777.

To Owen Biddle, Joseph Dean, Richard Bache, and John Shee, Esquires.

Pennsylvania ss.

Whereas great inconvenience and mischief may happen by the going at large divers persons who were officers of the King of Great Britain, and of the Proprietors of Pennsylvania, and it is highly expedient in the present situation of affairs, when the Enemy threaten an invasion of this state with a powerful army & fleet, that such persons be secured. These are therefore, in consequence of a resolve of Congress, dated yesterday,* to authorise and require you to imprison & remove to such places as you shall see fit, the persons whose names are mentioned and contained in the list hereunto subjoined, and to confine or enlarge upon parole such of them as you may, from their Characters & Behaviour, see proper to detain or dismiss. And the names of said persons are as followeth, that is to say:

Hon. John Penn, late Governor of the province of Pennsylvania, James Hamilton, Benjamin Chew, John Lawrence, James Tilghman,† Jared Ingersol,‡ Edward Shippen, junr, Joseph Shippen, junr, & James Allen, Esquires, William Hamilton, James Humphries, William Emly, Phineas Bond, Joseph Stanbury, Stephen Sewel, William Smith, Charles Eddy, Charles Jarvis, William D. Smith, Alexander Stidman, Charles Stidman, Elija Brown, James Humphreys, junr, Richard Vaux, Caleb Emlen, Richard Footman, Richard Wister, John Drinker, Henery Drinker, Richard Wells. Thomas Coombe, Thomas Assheton, Gurney, son-in-law of J. Ross, Esq., Lenox, John Sullivan, Papley.

And you are hereby further impowered to imprison, remove, confine, and enlarge on theire Parole as you see fit, all and persons whatsoever whom you may know or suspect to be disaffected to, & inimically disposed against the United free States of North America or against this Commonwealth. And for so doing this shall be to you, or any two of you, a sufficient warrant and authority, Given under my hand & seal, this first day of August, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven.

Indorsed.

"Warrant to Gentn of the Board of War for arresting officers under the late Government."

* See page 469. Also Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 264, 267.
† See his letters, Aug. 8.
‡ Also of Council, same date in Archives.

(Copy). Warrant to Arrest Suspicious Persons, 1777.

In Council, Philadelphia, August 1, 1777.

To A., B., C., D., E., F., &c.

Pennsylvania ss.

Whereas in & by an Act of Assembly, intituled "An Act obliging the male white Inhabitants of this State to give assurances of "Allegiance to the same; & for other purposes therein mentioned," passed on the thirteenth day of June last, it is declared that "there "is danger of having the seeds of discord & disaffection greatly "spread by persons, whose political principles are not known, re-"moving from one state to another; and it is well known that this "state is already become (and likely to be more so) an Asylum for "refugees flying from the just resentment of their Fellow Citizens "in other states:" And whereas it is thereupon enacted & provided "that every person above the age of eighteen years, who shall travel "out of the County or City in which he usually resides, without a "Certificate of such persons having taken the 'oath or affirmation "'of Allegiance' aforesaid, may be suspected of being a spy, & to "hold principles inimical to the United States, and shall be taken "before one of the Justices of the peace nearest to the place where "he shall be apprehended, who shall tender to him the said oath or "affirmation; and upon his refusal to take & subscribe the said oath "or affirmatiom, the said Justice shall commit him to the common "Goal of the City or County, there to remain without bail or main-"prize, untill he shall take & subscribe said oath or affirmation, or "produce a Certificate that he hath already done so; and all persons "coming from any of the other United States into this state, are "hereby required to apply to one of the nearest Justices after he "enters this state, & take & subscribe the said oath or affirmation, "upon the penalty of being dealt with as in the case of persons "travelling or removing out of the City or County in which they "usually reside, unless he can produce a Certificate that he hath "taken an oath or affirmation of the like nature in the state from "whence he came, except Delegates in Congress, prisoners of war, "the Continental Army, and foreign Merchants and Mariners;" and whereas the time limited by said Act for persons to take said oath or affirmation is expired, & yet many persons whose political principles are known or justly suspected to be inimical, & great numbers wholly unknown do, notwithstanding, enter this state and travel thro' or continue therein without producing the Certificate aforesaid, or giving any good account of themselves, to the great injury of the common cause, these are therefore to authorize and enable you, A., B., C., D., E., F., or any of you to apprehend the persons, in the said Act of Assembly described, offending in the premises, and them to take before the nearest Justice of the Peace,

in order that they may be dealt with according to the direction of the said act. And all Sheriff's, Coroner's, and other peace officers are hereby commanded & required to be aiding in the execution hereof.*

Authority to Call in aid in Arresting Certain Persons, 1777.

In council,

Philadelphia, August 2nd, 1777.

Pennsylvania L.S.

Whereas a warrant hath been issued by this Council, bearing date yesterday,† authorizing you, or any two of you to imprison, &c., divers persons therein named, or described; and whereas assistance may be necessary form the peace officers, or form the Militia, [*in the execution of the said warrant*]. These are therefore to authorize and impower you to call to your aid and assistance such and so many of the peace officers and of the Militia of this state as you may find necessary in the execution of the said warrant. And all officers, civil and military belonging to this state are hereby enjoined and required to be aiding and assisting to you in the execution of the said warrant.

Given under my hand & seal this second day of August, A. D. 1777.

T. W.

Directed,

To Owen Biddle, Joseph Dean, Richard Bache, David Rittenhouse & John Shee, Esquires.

President Wharton to Col. Galbraith, 1777.

Philadelphia, 2d August, 1777.

Sir,

I wrote to you on the 28th & 31st of July, ordering out a Class of the Militia of your County. You then had the state of Intelligence concerning the Enemy's approach. Our latest accounts are, That their fleet of two hundred sail, after hovering off the Capes with a fair wind for two days, had on Thurdsay forenoon, with a southerly wind, sailed away to the East North East, & had for some hours before the accounts

* This paper, like most of those from the Council, is a rough draught. From the indorsement it would appear *this* was "*not adopted.*" It, however, shows the views and feelings of the times.

† See page, 478.

were dated, been beyond the reach of the Eye. This is a favourable circumstance for this state, though Genl W., with a considerable force is at German Town; for the mischiefs of actual war are very severe & grievous. But as a retreat out of sight may be only a new wile of Genl Howe, the Genl relaxes nothing till he find him elsewhere. We therefore can make no alteration of our instructions.

The chief use of the present is to desire you to provide a Guard of 2 Lieutenantts, 3 Serg^ts, 3 Cor^s & 40 privates of Militia to convey about 40 Prisoners of War, & 20 Tories to Frederick, in Frederick Co., in Maryland. It is thought necessary to remove them from the City. We send an equal guard from hence, & hope you will be ready to relieve them at Anderson's Ferry. From the mention of their departure from this City to morrow morning, you will be able to calculate their arrival at Susquehanna. As Council wish not to put too heavy burdens on Militia, they hope this relief may be had.

I am

P. S. We have sent £3000 in Cash by Mr. Mic Bowyer. More lie for an opportunity.

Directed,

To Col. Galbraith.

JOHN MORRIS, JR., TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Sir,

I am extremely sensible of the Honor done by your Excellency & the Council in supposing that I would use every Exertion for the Establishment of Government. I would yester Evin'g when with Mr Vice-President have offered my service, had it been at that Time known that the Enemy had retired: and I now assure your Excellency that I will do every thing in my power to strengthen the hands of Government—and will to morrow set off for Lancaster & Reading. In Case of any new attempt which may threaten the City in my absence, I must beg Leave to Recommend Mrs Morris & my Family to their Protection.

I have the Honor to be

Y^r most Obed^t & very

hble. Servt,

JOHN MORRIS JR.*

Philadelphia, Augt 2, 1777.

Directed,

To His Excell^y, Thomas Wharton, Esq., Present.

* He was appointed Attorney of the Commonwealth to attend the Courts of Quarter Sessions at Lancaster & Reading. See Col. Rec., Vol. XI, p. 258.

JOHN MORRIS, JR., TO TIMOTHY MATLACK, 1777.

Dr Sir,

I send you one sett of the Minutes compleat from the 26th Febry.; —the other unstitched wants a sheet, which I believe I can supply at the State House, next time I come there.

Yr hble. Servt.

JOHN MORRIS, Jr.

Directed,

Tim'y Matlack, Esqr.

Augt 2d, 1777.

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Philadelphia, August 4th, 1777.

Sir,

The great expense and loss of time that has attended the recruiting service in most of the States and the little advantage derived from it has induced Congress to recommend the Executive powers of each to adopt certain New Regulations for promoting this important and essential business and for taking it entirely out of the hands of the Officers of the Army. The Resolve on this Subject and the regulations recommended, passed on the 31ult., and will I presume, be transmitted you by the president.

I will not urge the expediency of carrying this proceeding into immediate execution. I shall only observe, the necessity is obvious and that it demands our most active attention. The principal cause of my troubling you at this time is to request that after the persons recommended are appointed in your State, you will be pleased to transmit me their names, their places of residence, and those designed for the Rendezvous of recruits and Deserters. As soon as advised upon those Subjects I shall recall all the Officers who are recruiting and order them forthwith to join their respective Corps. Before I conclude I would beg leave to mention that the success of this interesting business in all its parts, will depend much upon a judicious choice of those who are to be employed in it; and that I think the districts should not be too large & extensive.

I have the Honor to be with great Respt.

Sir, Yr Most Obedt Servt,

Go. WASHINGTON.

Directed,

(On public service.) To His Excellency Thos. Wharton, Esqre, president of the state of Pensylvania.

MILITARY ARRANGEMENT OF RANK, 1777.

May it please your Excellency,

We, the subscribers, being the Four Captains first appointed in the ninth Pens^a Regim^t, beg leave to Certify to your Excellency & the Supreme Council that we ourselves settled the Rank we thought we were intitled to (with respect to each other) which was approved & confirmed by the Council of Safety in their arrangement of the Regim^t, as will appear by the Dates of our appointments & by the arrangement first made. We therefore petition the Honble, the Supreme Council, That the same arrangement may stand as first made & assented to, and not give place to any new pretensions of Officers of Junior Appointment on pretence of having Militia, Flying Camp, or antedated Commissions.

We are your Excellencies most obedient

Humble servants,

(1st) JOSEPH ERWIN, Capt.
(2^d) JOSEPH M'CLELLAN, Capt.
(3^d) THOS. B. BOWEN, Capt.
(4th) JOHN DAVIS, Capt.

Camp near Germantown, 4th August, 1777.

The Dates of our former Commissions, and Rank in the Regular service of the State of Pens^a.

Joseph Erwin, Captain, . . .	April 6th, 1776.
Joseph M'Clellan, ditto, . . .	July, 15th, 1776.
Thos. B. Bowen, eldest Lieut^t in 3 Batt^ns, .	April 6th, 1776.
John Davis, Lieut^t, . . .	April 6th, 1776.

Resolved, That no officer already appointed or to be hereafter appointed in the army of the United States shall Take Rank By virtue of a Commission antedated, But rank shall be Determined by the time of appointment, unless Otherwise directed by special Resolution of Congress.

In Congress, April 1st, 1777.

A Copy.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thos. Wharton, jun^r, Esqr, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pensylvania.

Warrant to Arrest Certain Persons, 1777.

In Council,
Philadelphia, August 4, 1777.

In conformity to a resolve of Congress, and for the public safety, we authorize you or any of you, with necessary assistants, to imprison the under mentioned persons, and to dispose of them as set forth opposite to their names hereto subjoined—until further order from this Council, that is to say, Jared Ingersol, Esquire, late judge of the Admiralty, to be sent on his parole to Winchester in Virginia, there to confine himself within six miles of that town, or, at his option, to be sent to Hartford, in Connecticut, under like restrictions.* James Tilghman, Esquire, late of the council, &c., to be held on parole at any place on the west side of the river Delaware, and within six miles of the same.† Capt—Gurney, (son in law to the late Jn. Ross, Esq.,) restricted to his house in the city on parole. Doctor Drummond, late Custom house officer, on like terms as Capt. Gurney, John Smith,—Welsh &—Bartlett, late Custom house officers, to be committed to the state prison. Mr—Sullivan, druggist, an officer on half pay in the British service, to be held on his parole at his dwelling in this city. James Humphreys the elder, late clerk of the orphan's court, to be held on his parole at his dwelling in this city, or at any other place on the west side of delaware, and within six miles of the same.

Directed,

To Coll. Irvine, Capt. Peale, Jn. Purviance, Thomas Bradford, Coll. Clymer & Robert Smith.

Indorsement.

Copy of Warrant to Coll. Irwine & others—1777, August 4th.

Warrant to Arrest Certain Persons, 1777.

In Council,
Philadelphia, August 4, 1777.

In conformity to a resolve of Congress, & for the public safety, we hereby authorize you or any of you, with necessary assistants, to imprison John Penn, Esquire, late Governor, &c., & to remove him to such place, as you shall see fit; and to confine & enlarge him upon parole or otherwise, as we may further order. At present sent we instruct you to allow Mr. Penn to remain on his parole at house in confining himself to the distance of six miles from thence, on the western side of Schuylkill.‡

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 291. Letters of Council to him, Aug. 8, p. 503.

† Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 285, and this Vol. 503.

‡ See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 264, and page 490 of this Vol.

JAMES LOUGHEAD TO COL. MATLACK, 1777.

Philad^a. 4 Augt. 1777.

Coll^a. Matlack,

Sir,

The service Required of the first and second Class of the Citey & Libertey Malitia, expiers the 25 Ins^t., The quartermasters have notifyd me to have my Acc^t. of Retaind Rations, prepair'd against that time. At present I labour under the disadvantage of not knowing my Rank or Rations. As I have not as yet Rec^d any Com^n Would Just observe The duty I have to perform is Double to that of a Paymaster to a single Batt^n. and consequently Deserving of more pay &c. This shall submitt to His Excelencey & the Honourable council, To whom I have the Honour to be Their & y^r. Obd^t. Hum^e. Ser^t,

JAMES LOUGHEAD.

N. B.—Please communicate the above contents to His excelencey & the Honourable council.

Directed.

To Coll^a. Timothey Matlack, Esqr. Present.

LT. COL. BECKER TO THE BOARD OF WAR, 1777.

Camp near Germantown, Augt. 4th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

The present state of the Sixth Penn^a. Reg^t. is not so good as I flattered myself a few months agone It would by this time have been, Two of my Captains, Lochry & Broadhead, having a Considerable sum of money advanced to them for the recruiting service, And been a Considerable time absent from the Reg^t., have now joyned it, Capt. Broadhead with Four recruits, & Capt. Lochry* with not one, some Time in the Month of June I rec^d a letter from Capt. Lochry requesting a sum of money to pay for the Board & other expenses of Forty recruits, which he Had (as he inform^d me) enlisted, & won^d Immediately March them down, accordingly I remitted him 800 dollars, which I Imagine he can render but very poor account of, he Informs me Genl. Hand On his way to Fort Pitt, forc^d his recruits to joyn him, but has not a scrawl to produce from Genl. Hand to prove it, I am sensible the Honble Board has been Impos^d on by him & several others.—There are 2 first Lieu^ts. Thomas Gibson & Stephen Hanna, And 4 Ensigns, Peter Bingham, Chas. Gillispie, Jno. McKenny & Jonathan Shaw, who have not Joyn^d the Reg^t. nor can I give any account of them, & as the Reg^t. may suffer for want of

* See Letter of Council to Col. Lochry, p. 488.

Officers, I woul^d beg leave to Recommend To the Honble Board the three following Gentlemen for Ensigns, John Markland, Philip Snider & John Foster, whose good behavour in the service deserves promotion, particularly M^r. Markland in the Affair of the 26th June.

I have the Honour to be Gentlemen,

Your Ob^t. Hum^ble Ser^vt,

HENRY BECKER, Lieu^t. Coll. 6th P. R.

Directed,

To Honble Board of War.

Col. Bartrem Galbraith to President Wharton, 1777.

Lancaster August 5th, 1777.

May it please your Excellency,

Sir, Your letters of the 28th & 31st, ultimo, came to my hands on Saturday afternoon last, that that of the 31st seemed to call for all such who would as Volunteers turn out in the service of their country at this critical juncture, by Sunday eavning, I had express's despatched to the several Colonels of Battalions already formed within this County, calling on them for three class's of each Company in their Battalions to march as quick as possible to Chester, & should there not be occasion for the whole would be glad of a line by the post, as it would depopulate such parts of the County as have already formed, much I am at a loss in some parts of the County for want of a proper assistance, thro' my sub-Lieutenants, want of activity & resolution, & am unhappy to find them appointed whose resolution is wanting, thro' the obstinacy of the Inhabitants. I have already in Lebanon requested the Assistance of Col. Curtis Grubb, a man of integrity, who I'm in hopes will be of Infinite Service, in the part of the County he lives in. Mr. Peart who is appointed there I believe is a very honest good man & wishes his country's success, but at the same time says he cannot with freedom take the oath of Allegiance to the State, who's example is against furthering our measures in his neighborhood, he talks of his resignation which I wish might be soon as the law appoints no more than five to my assistance in the County, as he's a German & a man of considerable influence, would be glad, how smooth those things might be Carried on. I'm at considerable loss also in the Borough for want of a suitable person & hope that I may be enabled without blame, to take such measures in our present situation as may seem most effectual for the Publick good. Three Battalions in this County are not yet formed for want of the returns,

I have bound over several of the Constables to Court, and am going rather beyond the limits of the Law, which is Advertising Elections of Field Officers without those returns, and perhaps thro' the Influance of those elected, may obtain them. A guard shall be in readiness to receive the Prisoners of War & Tories at Andersons ferry on their arrival,

I have the honour

to rest your Excellencis most

Obedt Humble Servt

BARTREM GALBRAITH, Lieut.
for Lancaster County.

Directed,

On Public Service.

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq., Prest for the State of Pennsylvania Philadelphia.

Lewis Gronow to Timothy Matlack, 1777.

Chester County August 5th, 1777.

Sir,

In the orders of Council of the 28th of July, they Express great dissatisfaction with the mode of hiring substitutes, As the advance of such large premiums, for two months Service is unreasonable and absurd. The Lieutenants of Philadelphia County was much earlier in procuring substitutes than those of Chester, and as I am informed they gave twenty five pounds to several that was employed the news of which soon reached our County, we were obliged to give nearly the same, and we cannot prevent persons from going to where they can get the highest price, that are not of the Classes under Marching Orders, We shall be obliged to give as high a price as is given in the neighboring County's. I have caused notice to be given to those of the second Class in the district allotted to me, and find that very few will turn out—& Likewise, have rode about in order to hire substitutes, which I have little prospect of getting, altho I have ventured to offer Sixty Dollars, they all insist on having as much as was given in the first Class, or they will not engage. Several have told me that for twenty five pounds they would go, & for no less. I am of oppinion with the Council that the premiums given are too high, but as the precedent is set, we must either give as much as has been given or do without men. I can see no iniquity in giving as much at this time as heretofore, altho Harvest is over, when men are so lost to all sense of their duty, by not turning out themselves nor finding a person in their stead. I should be glad to know the oppinion of

Council, whether the twenty five pounds shall be given or not. If it is to be given we shall want a considerable sum of money. We have advanced upwards of three thousand Dollars to the pay-master of the Militia, which we since understand Ought to be done by the Continent if that could be had at this time, it would be of use, You will be kind enough to let me know the oppinion of Council about the premium to be given, either by a line or informing the bearer.

I am Sir your

most Obed^{t} hum. Servt

LEWIS GRONOW.

Directed,

Timothy Matlack, Esq., Philadelphia.

Fav'd by
Maj^{r} Braton.

Ex. Council to Lt. Col. Archibald Lochrey, 1777.

In Council, Philadelphia 5th August, 1777.

Sir,

Council have understood that you have been called on by General Hand* for detachments & parties of the Militia of Westmoreland to defend the frontier; that you have granted them from time to time, but were desirous to be instructed on this subject, for your more asured proceeding in such cases.

There is every reason, that the Continental officers on your side of State, be supported by you. We enjoin you to give them all such aid as may be in your power. It ought not to be supposed that they will be unreasonable; but if you find that any requisition is burdensome to the people you should prudently remonstrate to the officer & set forth the inconveniencies.

The enemy's fleet have shown themselves on the Coast & without Delaware Bay many times, on Thursday Evening, the last of these appearances was made. They had not been seen again when the last messenger left Lewes, w^{h} was Saturday the 2d Inst, at 10 forenoon. We have a considerable Army at German Town under Gen. Washington waiting for them. Fifteen hundred Militia are embodied, more are drawing from the Counties. Your distance and former Services induces Council to spare you. We hope the Care of the West-frontier will not distress you.

I am, &c.

Directed,

To Col. Arch^{d} Lochrey Lieu^{t} of Westmoreland County.

* See page 486.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO F. HOPKINSON AND OTHERS, 1777.

Philada. August 6, 1777.

Sir,

The multiplicity of Business, which has for several days engaged Council, put it out of their power to give an answer to the application made by your Board for liberty to take such vessels or Materials as may be wanted by you for the Publick Service—the same to be valued by impartial Judges, & the owners paid accordingly—should they demand a price which you may Judge unreasonable—this is a stretch of power which the Council wish at all times to avoid, and think it more eligible that Congress pay even extravagant prices, than that Council at present encourage such a measure as it will irritate those who are our friends as well those who are not, & will be apt to produce a greater Scarcity of goods by inducing the people to Secret them, as well as to test it, will tend greatly to discourage the importer.

I am with respect
Gent your very Hum.

Directed,

To Fran. Hopkinson, Jno. Nixon & Jno. Wharton, Esqrs.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO SHERIFF OF NORTHAMPTON CO., 1777.

Phil^a 6 Aug^t, 1777.

Sir,

Before this reaches you, you have doubtless heard that the late Governor, his officers, & the officers of the King of Great Britain, have been arrested & held as prisoners of War on Parole.

It is but equal, that this should extend to all parts of the Country. Accordingly, we send you a form filled up for the late Prothonary, Lewis Gordon, Esquire. This we desire you to get executed & to return to us by a safe hand. Inclosed is a power to act in this behalf. Your attention to this business is requested.

I am
Sir &c.

Directed,

To the Sheriff of Northampton Co., John Jennings Esqr.

Warrant to Arrest Lewis Gordon, 1777.

Same [as on page 484,] to John Jennings, Esqr., sheriff of the county of Northampton, to arrest Lewis Gordon, Esq.,*	date August 6, 1777.

and confine him at his dwelling in Easton, (or elsewhere in your county,) confining himself to the distance of six miles from thence and not passing over to the east side of Delaware.

V. P. George Bryan to General Mifflin, 1777.

Philadelphia, August 6, 1777.

Sir,

The Council agreeable to your request by Mr. Hiltzheimer, has ordered a very considerable number of Waggons† to the City; they are coming in, and complaint is made that there is not provender ordered for them. It is of great importance that strict justice be done those people, otherwise they may hesitate to obey any future order, however necessary it may be in the time of distress, which may come upon us. The Council desire to know whether you have occasion for any of these Waggons to remove stores out of the city or not. That if you have not, they may be discharged; as they are very sensible of the great disadvantage to the farmers who are called out thus suddenly to assist the Citizens, and who leave their farms in the ploughing season with great reluctance and to an evident disadvantage. They wish you also to give them your sentiments as to the countermanding of the orders given for the Waggons, so as to prevent any more coming down.

I am &c.,
G. B., V. P.

Directed,
To Genl. Mifflin.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 261.
† See Col. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 261.

Continental Navy Board to President Wharton, 1777.

Continental Navy Board, 6th August, 1777.

Sir,

Application having been made to your Excellency some Days ago by a Member of this Board in Behalf of the Board for a Power from the State to take such vessels as may be wanted for Fire Ships, when the Owners refuse to accommodate the Public on any reasonable Terms, & have the same valued by impartial Judges & the Owners paid accordingly, we were in Hopes we should have heard from the Council in answer to our application. But as we fear this Matter has thro' a multiplicity of Business escaped your attention & we are in pressing want of four more Vessels to compleat the number of Fire Ships ordered by Congress, we beg leave to remind your Excellency of this matter, & request the opinion of Council thereupon.*

We are
your Excellency's
most obed't h'ble serv'ts,

FRA'S HOPKINSON.
JOHN WHARTON.
JOHN NIXON.

Directed,
To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Congress to the Assembly, 1777.

Philadelphia, August 6, 1777.

Gentlemen,

The Congress having ordered generals Schuyler and St. Clair to head-quarters that an enquiry may be made into their conduct, and the reasons of the evacuation of Ticonderoga, they have directed general Gates to take the command in that department, and to repair thither with the utmost expedition.

In the present critical state of our affairs in that quarter it is absolutely necessary that some vigorous and decisive measures should be taken to stop the progress of the enemy. These steps should be taken as early as possible; as the consequences of delay may be extremely disagreeable. From the great advantage our enemies have over us in

* See page 489.

the facility with which their troops may be transported by sea to any part of America, they will always have it in their power to make a descent before the continental army can possibly arrive to oppose them. The militia therefore whenever this happens must be depended upon, and their exertions, I trust, will never be wanting when called on, either to defend their own country, or to join with the army of the United States to oppose the common enemy.

I am therefore most earnestly to entreat you will order such part of your militia to reinforce the army under general Gates as he may judge sufficient, and that you will exert yourselves to comply with the enclosed requisition of Congress without the least delay. I have the honour to be,

Gent^n,
your most obed^t &
very h'ble serv't,
JOHN HANCOCK, Presid't.

P. S. I must request your attention to the other resolves, herewith transmitted as recommending the most effectual way to fill up the regiments, & to supply the continual waste of men occasion'd by the events of war, & other losses unavoidable in an army.

Directed,
The Hon'ble The Assembly of the State of Pennsyl^a.

No. 1.

In Congress, 29 July, 1777.

Resolved,

That an enquiry be made into the reasons of the evacuation of Ticonderoga and Mount Independence, and into the conduct of the General-officers who were in the Northern department at the time of the evacuation.

That a committee be appointed to digest and report the mode of conducting the enquiry.

July 30.

Resolved,

That Major-general St. Clair, who commanded at Ticonderoga and Mount Independence, forthwith repair to Head-quarters.

August 1.

Resolved,

That Major-general Schuyler be directed to repair to Head-quarters.

That General Washington be directed to order such General-officer as he may think proper, immediately to repair to the northern department, to relieve Major-general Schuyler in his command there.

That Brigadier Poor, Brigadier Patterson, and Brigadier Roche de Fermoy be directed to repair to Head-quarters.

August 3.

Resolved,

That General Washington be directed to order the General whom he shall judge proper to relieve General Schuyler in his command, to repair, with all possible expedition, to the northern department, giving him directions what number of the Militia to call in from the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts bay, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

That notice be immediately sent to the Executive powers of the said States, and that they be earnestly requested to get the Militia in those parts of their respective States most contiguous to the northern department, ready to march at a moment's warning; and to send, with all possible expedition, such parts of them as the General commanding in the northern department may require, to serve till the 15th of November if not sooner relieved by continental Troops, or dismissed by the commanding officer of the department, and be entitled to continental pay and rations.

That the commanding officer in the northern department have discretionary power to make requisitions on the States aforesaid, from time to time, for such additional numbers of the militia to serve in that department as he shall judge necessary for the public service.

Whereas it is represented to Congress that General Washington is of opinion that the immediate recal of all the Brigadiers from the northern department, may be productive of inconvenience to the public service:

Resolved,

That the order of Congress of the 1st day of this month respecting the said Brigadiers, be suspended until General Washington shall judge it may be carried into effect with safety.

Copy from the Journals.

WILLIAM CH. HOUSTON, D. Sec.

By order of Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, Pres't.

State of Pennsylvania.

No. 2.

In Congress, August 4, 1777.

Congress took into consideration the letter from General Washington, wherein he wishes to be excused from making the appointment of an officer to command the Northern army, I, thereupon, Congress, proceeded to the election of an officer, & the ballots being taken.

Major General Gates was elected to that command by the votes of eleven states.

Resolved, That General Washington be informed of this appointment, & that he be directed to order General Gates to repair with all possible expedition to the Northern department, to relieve major general Schuyler.

Ordered, That the remainder of the letter from general Washington be referred to the committee on the Northern department.

August 5, 1777.

The committee on the Northern department, to whom general Washington's letter was referred, brought in a report which was taken into consideration whereupon.

Resolved, That the commanding officer of the Northern department be directed to apply to the executive powers of the respective States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, & Pennsylvania, for such number of their respective militia as he shall judge sufficient to reinforce the army under his command. That such militia be entitled to continental pay & rations, & be continued in service to the last day of November next, unless sooner relieved by continental troops, or discharged; and that it be earnestly recommended to the executive powers of the said States, to exert their most vigorous efforts in complying with the requisition of the said commanding officer without delay, that a speedy & effectual stop may be put to the progress of the enemy in that quarter.

Copy from the Journals.

WILLIAM CH. HOUSTON, D. Secr^y.

By order of Congress.

JOHN HANCOCK, Presid^t.

State of Pennsylvania.

Statement of Henry Funk, 1777.

The Substance of what has passed between me, Henry Funk, and Philip Walter, & John Lamb, when they took him up on the 6th of August, 1777.

I, the said Henry Funk, went the same Day unto one Michael Smith and pay'd some money unto him for wheat which I had bought of the s^d Mich. Smith, and from there I went unto one Nicholas Klotz, a black Smith, where I have a new waggon, to see wheter it was done or not. From there I went back again with an Intent to go home; But when I was come about half a mile back to a Tavern, I was to go past, but said Philip Walter seeing me through the window, called me to Stop, he had some thing to say unto me. I Stopt, and he came out of the House and asked me where you come from. I said from Klotz's. He said, have you a Pass? I said no! Then, said he, you are my Prisoner, and took my Horse by the Bridle, and called for the Tavernkeeper to take care of my Horse, and I should go with him unto the next Justice, and told the Tavernkeeper either he or John Lamb must go with him to the Justice; but the Tavernkeeper refusing to go, he had not Time, John Lamb should go with him. I asked Walter, For what do you take me up, what is the Reason. Walter said, because you will not take the oath of allegiance, and therefore it is our Duty to take such People up, and so they brought me before Mr Limback. When we came there, they said unto Mr Limback, They had some mistrust upon me, because I would not take the Oath not to Day, nor if I could not be better convinced, to-morrow neighter. Mr Limback asked me why I could not take it? I said, It is against my Conscience, because we shall be at Peace with every body, and forgive all men, etc. Mr Limback asked those Men, Walter & Lamb, wheter I had Spoken any Thing against the State. They answered not. Limback asked me again, wheter I would take the oath? I said no, not at Present, without I be more convinced by further Consideration. So he gave me time unto the ninth of this Instant to consider the Matter. When we all had met, at the said Day, at Mr Limbacks, He asked me what I would do now? I said, that I had considered the Matter well all this Time, and the more I consider it the less Liberty I can find in my Conscience to take that Test. Then Mr Limback said, If you can't take the Oath I must Qualify these men. I answered that I would Qualify to be true to the State according to the Doctrine of St. Paul, Rom. 13, be subject to the higher Powers, &c. Then Mr Limback asked Walter & Lamb, If they could Swear that they were convinced in their Hearts & Consciences that they mistrust me to be a Spy. He asked them what Reason they had for such a Suspicion? They said because he travells forwards and backwards, and for refusing to take the Oath. Then Mr Limback swore them upon the holy Evangelists of

Almighty God. And after they had Sworn, Mr Limback said now you are Qualified to say the Truth, the whole Truth, & nothing but the Truth. What reason have you to supose Henry Funk is a Spy? They made the same answer as before, for traveling forwards & backwards. Then Mr Limback asked them again, If they were convinced in their Conscience that Henry Funk might be a Spy. They said Yes. Then Mr Limback asked them if they had any other Thing to say against sd Funk? They said No. Upon this Mr Limback committed me to Goal. This is the Substance of my Trial before Mr Limback.

HENRY FUNK.

Joseph Donaldson and Others to Pres't Wharton, 1777.

York Town, 6th August, 1777.

Sir,

We think it necessary to lay before you the inclosed Depositions respecting the behaviour of some Continental Troops on their march thro' this County, the 2nd Instant.

They Drove three of the Inhabitants (men of respectable character) before them, bound like Criminals several miles, and insulted them in an arbitrary and cruel manner.

They beat Danl Messerly, one of the Justices, and boasted they had got a Justice of the Common Wealth their Prisoner.

The reason they gave for using Messerly in the above manner, was that they were apprehensive he intended to rescue some Prisoners they had, but it was false, for he was sent for by the Woman of the House to judge if Danl May was fairly inlisted, besides he came unarmed among the soldiers, and is an old man about sixty years of age.

It appears that Geo. Fockler was riding peaceably on the highroad towards his own Habitation, when they dismounted him from his Horse, seized his Property, tied his hands, and drove him without any reason to Yorktown.

In short, their whole behaviour, from the Testimony of many Witnesses (towards those three men) appears to be full of wantoness and Cruelty—more like a Band of Ruffians than Gentlemen.

We would be glad if the officers could be brought to Justice. If the Military are allowed to trample on the Civil power with impunity we are in a wretched situation.

The Commander of the Party called himself Lieut William McCoy; it is said he is in Captain Steel's Company, but we know not what Regiment.

Lieut Reynolds belongs to one of the sixteen additional Regiments.

The Persons who they treated ill are men well affected to the Camp of Liberty and their Country.

We are Sir,

y^r most obed^t serv^ts,

JOS. DONALDSON.
MICH'L HAHN.
JOHN HAY.

Directed,

To The Honble Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President of the Supreme Executive Council.

Depositions respecting Riot in York Co., 1777.

York County, ss. August 3^d, 1777

Daniel Messerly, Esqr, of the County aforesaid being duely qualified deposes and says, that on the 2^d day of August instant the deponent was sent for by the Widow Graaf of Dovertown in the said County, at whose Request the deponent went to her House, on his arrival there he could not find her, on his pushing at one of the Room doors he found it would not open as Easy as usual, on his opening the door he perceived two armed men standing as Sentinels, that a person came out of the said Room and struck this deponent with his fist, and sundry other persons (who appeared to be Soldiers) dragged him out of the house into the Street and there beat and abused him in a cruel and barbarous manner, as soon as they desisted from beating this deponent they took him into the house and confined him under a Guard of armed men, and tied his hands behind him, and drove him into Yorktown in that unworthy situation swearing at the same time that he this deponent should go tied to Camp, this treatment was in pursuance of Orders given by persons who this deponent is informed are named William McCoy and Lieu^t Reynolds.

DANIEL MESSERLY.

Sworn and Subscribed before me this 3^d Aug. 1777. }

W^m. LEAS.

Casper Danner of York County duly qualified deposes and says, that on the 2^d August instant hearing a disturbance at and near the Widow Graaf's tavern in Dovertown in the said County, and being among several of his Neighbours a Spectator there, several men

(who he is since informed were Soldiers under the command of Lieu[t] Reynolds of one the additional Reg[ts]) fell on him this deponent and beat and abused him in a Barbarous and Cruel manner, and further this deponent deposes that he saw several men of the same party knock down beat and abuse Dan[l] Messerly, Esquire, that this deponent heard several of the said party swear that if any of the Inhabitants of Dovertown aforesaid came out of their houses, they would knock them down.

CASPER DANNER.

Sworn and Subscribed before me this 3[d] Aug[t], 1777.

W[m]. LEAS.

—

Catharine Graaf of York County, Widow, being duely qualified deposes and says, that a party of men (as she is since informed) under the Command of Lieu[t] Reynolds of one of the additional Regiments, Came to her house in Dovertown in the said County on the 2[d] of this instant, August, and apprehending one of her Neighbours, Captain Dan[l] May of the Militia had been fouly inlisted by this party, at whose Request she this deponent sent for the next Justice of the peace Dan[l] Messerly, Esq[r], that this deponent being in a Room wherein the said party had their prisoners Confined, the door of which the said Dan[l] Messerly had pushed open, he the said Dan[l] Messerly was opposed by several of the party who took him out of the house, and after some time brought him in, and he appeared to this deponent to have been very much abused and beat.

her
CATHARINE ⋈ GRAFF.
mark.

Sworn and Subscribed before me this 3[d] Aug[t], 1777.

W[m]. LEAS.

—

Captain Daniel May of the York County Militia being duely qualified deposes and says, that on the 2[d] of this Instant, August, being on his Return home from Yorktown it came on to rain, to avoid which he put in at the Widow Graafs tavern in Dovertown, where there was a party of men (as he is since informed) were under the Command of Lieu[t] Reynolds of one of the additional Regiments, one of which party (after asking this deponent several questions) told this deponent he would tell him a fine story how he had enlisted a man, and he would leave him this deponent to Judge if it was not

a fair inlistment, that the said person drew nearer this deponent, and had some thing rolled up in his hand which this deponent thought was paper money, this deponent then moved further from him and told him to stand off, the said person notwithstanding made towards this deponent and took him by the hand asking him if that was not a fair inlistment, this deponent then replied that if he had inlisted a man in that manner he had no objection and desired him to stand off as he desired to have nothing to do with him, that sundry of the said party seized him this deponent and confined him under a Guard swearing he this deponent was one of their Soldiers, that the person this deponent is informed was Lieu^{t} Reynolds tied this deponents hands behind him and drove him to Yorktown, While he this deponent was under the said Guard he requested the Landlady to send for Justice Messerly, who came at his Request, and as he the said Justice Messerly opened the room door in which he was confined one of the party struck the said Messerly, that as they were marching towards York tied as aforesaid this deponent saw some of the party strike the said Messerly with their Guns, that the said party insulted and abused the said deponent and Justice Messerly, making their boast that they had a Justice and a Captain their prisoners.

DANIEL MAY.

Sworn and Subscribed this 3^{d} Aug^{t}, 1777, before me.

W^{m}. LEAS.

—

George Fockler of York County being duely qualified deposes as follows: that on the 2^{d} of this instant, August, as this deponent was on the high road on his Return home from Yorktown that a person (who he is since informed is Lieutenant Reynolds) and a party of men made this deponent dismount from his horse, seized him, tied his hands behind him, riffled his pockets and took thereout some powder and gun flints, detained his horse and a Gun and drove him to Yorktown.

GEORGE FOCKLER.

Sworn and Subscribed before me 3^{d} Aug^{t}, 1777.

W^{m}. LEAS.

—

John Kurtz of York County being duely Qualified deposes as follows: that on the 2^{d} Instant, in the Evening, Setting in his Neighbours porch in Manchester township near Yorktown, his

neighbours wife says to him "they are bringing Justice Messerly tied," that this deponent left the porch with intent to go home, that one of the Soldiers who had Messerly confined stepped out of the ranks and ordered him this deponent to stop and go no further, this deponent told him here was his house and he wanted to go home, that a person who this deponent is informed is Lieutenant Reynolds struck this deponent with a Club, that one other of the said party whose name (this deponent is informed) is Ogilvie, drew his sword and swore he would take him prisoner, Upon this he this deponent made his Escape into one of his neighbours houses.

JOHN KURTZ.

Sworn and Subscribed this 3d Augt, 1777, before me.
Wm. LEAS.

John Detter of York County being duly qualified deposes and says that on the 2d instant this deponent was standing in his fathers door in Manchester township, three men belonging to a party of Soldiers, commmanded as this deponent is informed by Lieut Reynolds of one of the additional Regts, laid hold on this deponent, two of whom held him and the third of the name of Ogilvie, as he is informed, beat him with his naked sword, others of the party dragged him through the house and struck at him with a Tomahawk and threatened to take him prisoner.

JOHN DETTER.*

Sworn and Subscribed this 3d Augt, 1777, before me.
Wm. LEAS.

James Gregory &c. to President Wharton, 1777.

Carlisle Augt 7th, 1777.

Sir,

Inclosed have sent you (☞ Captain Matthew Gregg, who Marches to morrow with the first Company of Militia from the second Battalion for this County) the Return of Officers of the Fifth Battalion, in order for having their Commissions sent them. The Militia of

* See letter of Sup. Exec. Council to J. Donaldson, Aug. 19, on page *August* 6.

[By Resolution of this date of the Supreme Executive Council the longer continuance of the State "Board of War" is unnecessary—they are accordingly discharged with a vote of thanks. See Col. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 261.]

this County we are endeavouring to send out with all Possible expedition, the first Class we are in hopes will Turn out well, the subsequent Classes, we flatter ourselves will in their call do the same; but we still Labour under Difficulty for the want of a Lieutenant for this County, which we apprehend should be in or near this Town, & which we hope your Excelency will consider, and appoint one for Cumberland County.

We have the honour to be with all
due Respects,
your Excelencys
very Hum^l Ser^ts,
JAMES GREGORY,
GEO. SHARP.

Directed,

His Exclency, Thos. Wharton, Junr., President of the Executive Council of the Common Wealth of Pennsylvania.

Capt. M. Gregg.

STATE NAVY BOARD TO SUPREME EXEC. COUNCIL, 1777.

State Navy Board Augt 7th, 1777.

Gentleman,

Next Monday the Paymaster informs us, he shall be obliged te go down the River to pay the different crews belonging to the State fleet. And all the Money, he says, is applied, so that at present, we cannot command a Farthing. The Board wou'd be glad the Honourable Council, will take the Matter into their immediate Consideration & furnish us with a sum adequate to our exigencies

Agreeable to your Order of yesterday We requested Commodore Hazelwood to furnish two Pilotts for ye Continental Vessels, which he immediately appointed, one whereof was Joseph Gamble a Chevaux de Frize Pilott who was ordered on board the Ship Delaware, Capt. Alexander, to take charge of the Ship & carry her thro' the Chevaux de Frizes, where he was to remain on board untill furthur Orders, And when he was called upon by the s^d Capt. he refus'd to repair on Board.

By Order of ye Board,
JOSEPH BLEWER, C. M.

Directed,

To the Honourable The Supreme Executive Council, of the Common Wealth of Pennsylvania.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1777.

War Office, Augt 7, 1777.

Sir,

I have it in Direction from the Board of War, to request that you will furnish Elias Boudinot, Esqr Commissary General of Prisoners, with such Number of Militia as he shall from Time to Time require either for guarding or removing the Prisoners in this State.

I have the Honour to be

Your very obed Servt,

RICHARD PETERS, Secy.

Directed. On Public Service.

His Excellency the President & the Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

rec'd Augt 9, 1777.

War Office,

Richard Peters, Sec'y.

James Tilghman to Supreme Executive Council, 1777.

Walnut Street, Augt the 8th, 1777.

Sir,

Upon maturely considering the Parole which has been offered me by the honorable Board I do not find myself free to accept it. Without the least insinuation that I have been guilty of any thing which renders me suspicious, I am taken up and considered in the light of a Prisoner of War, and as such I am to conduct myself, which subjects me to be called upon and imprisoned even the next day after I have signed the Parole. I am not only prohibited from giving intelligence of publick affairs to the Commander of the British forces and all persons under him, but to any other person whatever, which precludes me from writing and even speaking to my friends or acquaintance. For how shall I know what other people may call publick affairs? And thus I must either be secluded from all social and friendly intercourse or run the risk of incurring the odious imputation of breaking my Parole. With regard to my liberty, the terms of the proposed Parole confine me to my house in Town, and I cannot walk the street, tho' I may go into the Country to the distance of six Miles, on the west side of Delaware. And with respect to my going to Maryland, where my family is and all my Estate which affords me any income lyes, I can only visit my family but cannot go to my Estates. For it happens that the chief part of my family is not on either of my Estates. For these reasons I cannot prevail

on myself to accept of the proposed parole. Yet to avoid the horrors of a Goal, and the distress my confinement would bring upon my absent family, (altho' I think the proceeding against me is the most arbitrary that can be imagined, being imprisoned by a Precept which expresses no offence, and altho' my Imprisonment is totally unmerited and altogether contrary to the express terms of the constitution under which the Council act) I am willing to give a Parole obliging myself not to do any thing injurious to the United States and not to give any intelligence to the commander of the British forces or any person under him; To have Liberty to visit my family and Estates in Maryland on two days notice to the President or Vice president, and when in Pensylvania to confine myself to my dwelling house in town and six miles round on the west side of Delaware, or to have my general residence fixed in Maryland, with liberty to come to Philadelphia occasionally, upon permission of the President or vice president. These terms in my opinion are abundantly sufficient to guard the publick against any danger from a man of honor, as I am supposed to be by having a Parole offered me, and I hope I may not be thought impertinent in proposing them. But if the honorable Board are not in the same sentiment I must submit to my fate whatever it may be, lamenting that the times are such that a man's innocence is not his safety.

I am, Sir, Y^r Most Ob^t Servant,

JAMES TILGHMAN.*

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President of the Council of Pensylvania.

SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO JARED INGERSOLL, 1777.

Philadelphia, August 8, 1777.

Sir,

I am directed by Council to acquaint you that from the present situation of affairs, as well on your own account as from other considerations, it will be most proper for you to remain in this city for a few weeks, and they recommend it to you to do so.

With great respect I am

Your very humble servant,

T. M.

Directed,

To Jared Ingersoll, Esqr,† Present.

* See page 484, and Col. Rec. Vol. xi. p. 285.

† See page 484.

Pres't Wharton to Magistrates of the Counties, 1777.

In Council, Philadelphia, August 8, 1777.

Sir,

The Fleet of the enemy has not been seen on our coast for eight days past,* which renders it probable that the wagons ordered from your county will not be wanted; and as the expense will be enormous, you are therefore hereby directed to stop the waggons from coming down until further orders; and we request you to send immediate notice, by express if necessary, to the Wagon Masters of this order, that it may be effectually complied with.

I am your very humble servant,

THO. WHARTON, jun., Pres^t.

Henry Fisher to State Navy Board, 1777.

Lewistown Augt ye 8, 1777.

Gentlemen,

Having this opportunity by Capt John Learmonth, I shall give you the Best intelligence from here Respecting the pirate ships,—there is one frigate and tender lying at the Brown, one frigate and tender in our Road, and two frigates that Cruise of and Near the Cape, sometimes they come in and stay a tide and then out to sea. On Tuesday last, Capt Murphey went up to Cedar Creek to take possession of some craft that was there that the torrys go off to the ships to trade with, but upon Capt Murpheys entering the Creek he found a Sloop that had lately ariv'd from New York with several articles such as Salt, Rum, Sugar, Coffee & Tea, &c., &c, he Boarded her, but the men took to the marsch that belonged to her, and Capt Murphey pursued them but could not over take them, however he took four other Gentlemen that was going down to trade with Bacon, Eggs, &c., &c., the Capt brought the Sloop out and got down to our Creek's mouth that night, but could not get his prize in, the next morning there came a schooner tender Belonging to the Ship in our Road, and three Cutters, to Retake s^d Sloop, upon which a smart engagement begun which lasted above half an hour, when to Capt Murpheys credit be it spoken that he made them shear off, altho' the Schooners mettle must have been much heavier than the Barges, the Cutter was obliged to towe the Schooner off, and I am certain that she must have Rec^d some considerable Damage, for I was looking

* They did not receive the following letter till the 10th.

with a glass the whole time of the action; Capt Murphy Recd very little damage save being burnt in the face with his own gun by her blowing from the touch hole. The Sloop he got safe into our Creek where he would be glad to have your orders. There is a constant trade from the ships to Cedar Creek, and I think if you could spare one of your small galleys, the vessels they trade in might be taken, they are a Sloop and Schooner, and mount two six pounders and some swivels each, they are there once or twice a week certainly. Capt Murphey desires that you would send him down powder & ball as far as Mr. John Clowes near this place, please to fail not as he is in want of it.

Colonel Richardson is encamped at Mr Clowes about 13 miles from this he has taken up several of our Damd Rascals of torrys and I believe he will doe a great deal of Service here; Capt Murphey took several letters in the Sloop which he sent to Colonel Richardson to be forwarded to Congress, they are from the infamous Tho's Robinson, late of this place but now an inhabitant of New York, I hope the letters will come safe to hand and shall take it as a favour if Messr Bradfords would have them put in their useful Paper.

I fear Gentlemen that I have tired you with my long appistle, however you must excuse your humble Servt.

HENRY FISHER.

Directed,

To The Honorable the State Navy Board.

Indorsed,

[Recd 10 August, Abt ½ past 8 o'clock P. M.]

JOHN HUBLEY TO SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, 1777.

Lancaster, Aug. 8th, 1777.

Dr Sir,

I have received your favour by Express, with one hundred tavern Licences Bonds, &c.

Yesterday our Court of Quarter Sessions closed, after doing the business thereof in the greatest good order. A very respectable Grand Jury attended, and returned 25 bills for various offences against the Commonwealth, several offenders were tried by a respectable Petit Jury, convicted and Judgment passed on them according to Law, and this morning had their punishment inflicted at the Public Whipping Post; during the whole session a large number of reputable Inhabitants of this County attended and the appearance of satisfaction was visible in their countenances.

I shall in a few days have the satisfaction to see you, if nothing comes in the way.

I am,

Your very humble Servt,

JOHN HUBLEY.

P. S. I could wish you would throw a few lines into the Papers that so good a beginning has been made in Lanr County of the administration of Justice.

Directed,

Timothy Matlack, Esqr, Secretary of the S. E. Council for the State of Pennsylvania, Philada.

JOHN MORRIS JR. TO SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, 1777.

Lancaster, Augt 8th, 1777.

Dr Sir,

I take the liberty of inclosing a letter for Mrs Morris, which I must beg the Favour of you to send by your Door-keeper, who goes by my door to his own house.

We have had a pretty large Court here, (all circumstances considered) and every thing has been conducted with great order and decorum, I presented 26 Indictments, 25 of which were found by the Grand Jury, which was as respectable a one as any I remember to have seen in the County. The opening the Channel of Justice seems to give a pretty general satisfaction, tho' the countenances of some plainly shewed their dissatisfaction, however they said nothing. We convicted several felons, 3 of whom received their punishment this morning.

I am Sir, Yr

very hble Servt

JOHN MORRIS.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Secretary at Philadelphia.

Isaac Melchor to T. Matlack, 1777.

Sir,

I purchased of Isaac Huff Eleven cords & three quarters of a cord of Oak Wood for the use of the United States, for which I paid him 65s. p. cord, the highest price I have hitherto paid for Wood, & agreeable to what is allowed (or approved of) to be given by the board of War. During the last Winter none was purchased at a higher rate than 40s. p. cord. The price of wood will be Ten pounds p. cord next Winter if nothing is done to prevent it.

I am Sir,
your most
obed't h'ble Svt.
ISAAC MELCHOR.
D. G. M.

Phi., 9 Aug, 1777.

Directed.

To Timothy Matlack, Esq., P'sent.

Proposals from Dr. Robert Harris for making of Salt.

In answer to the Proposals for a Partnership Concern between the Honourable The Executive Council for the State of Pennsylvania and Robert Harris.

TERMS.

1. That the Stock in hand for the purpose of carrying on the manufacture of Common Salt, be £ , of which Government to advance three-fourths, and R. Harris, one-fourth part.

2. That every Expence & Charge attending the maintenance & Carrying on of said undertaking, as well as the Transportation of the Salt when made to market, shall be borne by the Parties hereto in like proportion, [the Government their three-fourths, & R. Harris his one-fourth part.]

3. All Repairs, when necessary, to be made as soon as possible, & the expences borne in the above proportion by the parties aforesaid —but Government in particular to make good all damages sustain'd by or on account of the Enemy.

4. Government not to interfere in the Prices of any Salt made in this Factory. Or, if they shou'd, that this Partnership then cease. And,

5. For the more expeditious Carrying on of the same, 'Tis expected that they will for all workmen employed obtain an exemption from military services, whether wood-cutters, salt men or waggoners, except upon an invasion of the Enemy into the Neighbourhood, or upon extraordinary Occasions of that kind.

6. In Consequence of which R. Harris is to take upon him the sole Charge, Management, & Direction of the whole undertaking, & finally to pay into the hands of one equal third part of the nt Profits arising therefrom, & R. Harris to retain for his Share two third parts of the nt Profits as aforesaid.

7. All accounts to be settled and adjusted in behalf of Government by Trustees named and R. Harris every three months, during the Continuance of this Partnership.

& 8. At the Expiration of the Term of Time limited for said Partnership's Continuance, That the whole Stock & Implements on hand of whatever kind, be sold or divided as may be then thought most advantageous, & appropriated to the Use of the Parties concerned. Each Party sharing their proportion of the Loss & Profits therein.

9. That the Commencement of this Partnership be as soon as all the Works are ready & in Order. R. Harris to retain the proper use & Benefit of his own Works until that time.

These being the most material articles under Consideration, you have with them my Idea of the affair in general. They are, however submitted to your Perusal, &c. Shall be glad to know your mind also upon the subject as soon as convenient.

I am Hon^d Gentlemen,

Y^r most humble servant,

ROB. HARRIS.

Augt 9th, 1777, Philad^a.

Directed,

To the Honble Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President of the Executive Council of Pensylvania, Pres^t.

Mittimus in case of Henry Funk, 1777.

Northampton ss. } A true Copy.
} In the name of the Commonwealth of Pennsyl^a.

To the Keeper of our Gaol at Easton in our said County of Northampton, or his deputy, Greeting: Whereas Henry Funk, of Upper milford Township in our s^d County, Miller, is arrested and brought before me by Philip Walter & Jacob Laub, for suspicion of a Spy, & whereas I tender him, the said Henry Funk,

[L. S.]

the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance, and he, the said Funk, refuse and deny to take and subscribe the s^d Oath or Affirmation, & whereas the said Walter & Laub on their Solemn Oaths on the holy Avengilis of Almighty God, doth depose and say that by their best perceive, Conceive and Suspicion. the s^d Funk is a Spy, and to hold principles inimical to the United States. I therefore Command you & each of you to receive him, the said Henry Funk into your Custody, in our s^d Gaol, there to remain till he be delivered from your Custody according to the Laws of our State of Pennsylv^a concerning the s^d. Given under my Hand & Seal on this ninth day of August, A. D., 1777.

FR^ck LIMBACH.*

WILLIAM McILVAINE TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President of the Executive Council, Pennsylvania.

May it please your Excellency,

Inclosed I send you the Deposition of Mr. Alexander M'Dowal, & a Testimony of Mr. John Dowdny, which last, for want of a Magistrate, could not be qualified to.

I hope the Circumstances related may be found sufficient to bring to Punishment a Person who has both forefeited the character of a Citizen & a Soldier, setting at Defiance both the Civil & Military Powers.

I am with much esteem,

Your Excellency's most

devoted humble Servt,

WILLIAM McILVAINE.

Indorsed.

Rec'd August 10th, 1777.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President of the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 269. See Funk's Statement on page

General Washington to Supreme Exec. Council, 1777.

Camp near Germantown, Augt 9th, 1777.

Sir,

I am this moment favor'd with your Letter of Yesterday, covering a Complaint of William McIlvaine, Esq., against Major or Captain Sims. The Corps to which he belongs is at present in Trenton.

I shall take the earliest opportunity of having the matter strictly enquir'd into, & if Sims is found guilty of the charge, he shall make such satisfaction as Mr. McIlvaine will deem sufficient, or (in case of his refusing so to do) he shall become amenable to the Powers of Civil Law in such manner as it directs.

I have the Honor to be
With high Esteem,
Your mo. Obed^t servant,
G^o WASHINGTON.

Rec'd August 9, 1777.

Directed,
To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Sup. Exe. Council to State Navy Board, 1777

August 11, 1777, In Council.

Gentlemen,

We have perused Mr. Fishers Letter directed to you dated at Lewistown the 8th Inst,* and with pleasure observe the good conduct of Capt. Murphy in capturing a trading Vessel from New York intending to supply the Tories in the Delaware State with necessary's and beating off one of the enemies Tenders, tho of much superior force. You will please to forward the supplys Capt. Murphy stands in need of—and if you approve of it may send one or more guard boats to his assistance, but we cannot see the propriety of ordering down one of the small Gallies, if there is safety in sending the prize taken by Capt. Murphy to this city we wish it to be done, otherwise the vessel & cargo must be disposed of at the most convenient place agreeable to Law, and proper distribution made of the proceeds.

Gentlemen,

Directed,
To the State Navy Board.

* See Fisher's letter, p. 504.

Dr. Drummond to President Wharton, 1777.

Philada. 12 Aug^t, 1777.

Gentlemen,

By the operation of the Parole tender'd me on the evening of the 4th Instant I find myself at once deprived of Support & Health; the former from the loss of my Practice as a Physician, the latter from close confinement to a very small & inconvenient house in this sultry season.

I cannot imagine it was intended to punish me in this manner without the allegation of any Crime whatever, or that I should not enjoy equal Liberty with other Gentlemen in the same Predicament.

I have therefore made this application to request you would consider my Case, & grant me such enlargement as you may think reasonable.

I am,

Gentlemen

your most humbl Servt

GEO. DRUMMOND.*

Directed,

To The President & Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

Gen. Potter to President Wharton, 1777.

Billingsport, Augt 12th, 1777.

Sir,

I am informed by the Bearer Col. McMesters, that some of the sub-Lieutenants of Bucks County have promised to there People, that they shall all be discharged when the time of those that entered first is out, the first entered June 29th, about 8 or 10 in Captain Thomas' Companey, the greater Number entered on the eight of July, I cant dispence with the law and discharge the men befour there time is out, with out your order for so doing.

I am your Excellency's

Most obedient Humbl Servt

JAS. POTTER.

Directed,

To the Hon'ble Thomas Wharton, Esq.,

℞ Favour of
Col. McMesters.

* See Col. Rec., vol. xi., p. 268.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1777.

War Office, Augt 12th, 1777.

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of War to desire you will procure an Officer & six Gentlemen of the Philadelphia Light Horse to escort John Penn & Benjamin Chew, Esqrs., as Pris^rs to Fredricksburg in Virginia. You will be pleased to direct them to call at the War Office, & receive their Instructions as soon as possible.

I have the Honour to be

with great Regard

your very obed^t Servt

RICHARD PETERS, Sec.*

P. S. The Pris^rs are considered as under the care of the Government of this State untill their Departure from Philada.

Directed.

On Public Service.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jr., Esq., President of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

Committee for driving off Cattle.

To the Honorable, the President and Council.

The Committee for driving off Cattle of the first Class, are fully senseable of the Necessity and utility of the Resolve of Assembly when the aproach of the Enemy shall make it necessary.

And at the same time that it is not in our Power to put the Resolution of Assembly in force, for the following reasons †, viz:

That they cannot drive away the Live Stock themselves, & the words 'Reasonable Allowance to be Paid to such as we may Call to our assistance, is so vague and uncertain that no helpe Can be had by such an offer.

And when it is put in our Power, we, Gentlemen, are willing and Ready to Proceede to the trust Repos'd in us.

Signed in behalf of the whole,

SAM^l SWIFT.

Aug. 12, 1777.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., pp. 265, 266.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XI, p. 266.

Resolve of Congress.

July 31, 1777.

On a report of the Board of War.

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, forthwith to make prisoners of the late crown and proprietary officers, and other persons in and near this city, as are disaffected or may be dangerous to the public liberty, and send them back into the country; there to be confined or enlarged upon parole, as their characters and behaviour may require.

In Congress, August 12, 1777.

An extract from the Minutes of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania was laid before Congress, as follows:

In Council, Philadelphia, August 12th, 1777.

Ordered,

That Information be given to Congress that the Hon'ble John Penn, Esqr, late Governour of Pennsylvania, and Benjamin Chew, Esqr, late Chief Justice, Register-General of wills, &c., and one of the Governour's Council of the same, have been made Prisoners agreeable to the recommendation of Congress; that both refuse to sign a parole of any kind; and that Congress be requested immediately to order them to be removed out of this State.

Extract from the Minutes.

T'Y MATLACK, Secr'y.

Whereupon Congress passed the following Order:

The Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania having informed Congress that the Hon'ble John Penn, Esqr, late Governour of Pennsylvania, and Benjamin Chew, Esqr, late Chief Justice, &c., are made Prisoners agreeable to the recommendation of Congress; and that they have refused to sign a Parole of any Kind; and the said Council having requested Congress to order Them to be removed out of the State:

Ordered,

That the Board of War give Directions for the Conveyance of those Gentlemen, under Guard, to Fredericksburgh, in Virginia; and that the Governour of Virginia be requested to appoint some proper Place for the reception of those Gentlemen; and to order

that they be safely secured, and entertained agreeable to their rank and Station in Life

Copy from the Journals.

William Ch. Houston, D Secr'y.

Aug. 14.

A letter from the hon^ble John Penn, Esqr, to the hon^ble the president, requesting Congress to admit him to his parole, and a memorial from Benjamin Chew, Esqr, containing the same request, were laid before Congress, and thereupon

Ordered that the board of war take such parole from the said gentlemen as they may think proper, and that the order of Tuesday last for their removal to Virginia be superseded.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Archibald McClean to Pres't Bryan, 1777.

York, 18th August, 1777.

May it please Your Honour.

Yours of the 17th ult. I acknowledge to have received, but not until the 2^d Instant, which was on the last Day of the Week, on which a Court ought to have been held here of Course; and in order to answer its principal Contents (after craving Indulgence for my Prolixity) I shall give some account of what I have found, and yet do find, to be the state of this County, whereby Council will be enabled to form a just judgment of the Causes of our Inactivity.

The General Commission of the Peace for the County was brought here upon the 21st Day of June last, at which Time Mr. McConoughy was abroad in the state of Maryland, and did not return home until the 28th of the said Month, and as I had just left Town when it was brought here, it was committed to the Care of a Person to deliver to me, who not going directly to the Place where I then was, delivered it in Charge to another Person, until he should call for it, by means whereof it was miscarried, and not found or delivered to me until the first Day of July.

As soon as I received it, I convened those of the Justices therein appointed, which were within the Vicinity of this Place, and with their concurrence, appointed the 8th Day of July, then next ensuing, for all the Justices appointed, to meet at York, in order to qualify, or otherwise to consult together and conclude what steps should be most proper to pursue in the present Juncture, and accordingly the more to facilitate the matter, and reduce the Information of the appointment to a Certainty, dispatched expresses with written notices thereof, to the dwellings of each of the Justices, signifying to them their nomination and the said appointment.

In the mean Time, (and tho' I shall here make mention of particular Names, I would choose to be understood to do it with becoming Delicacy and Caution,) George Ross, Esqr., of the Borough of Lancaster, happened to come into the County on a Visit of Business to his Iron Works, and as I am informed, during the Course of his Tour amongst Individuals into whose Company he might occasionally have fallen, threw every embarrassment and obstruction in the Way, which his Disaffection to Government and fruitful Invention could suggest, in order to prevent the Execution of Government, and to induce, excite, intimidate and prevent the Justices from qualifying and exercising their Powers in the Discharge of the Duties of their appointment, And on the 8th Day of July before mentioned, tho' he arrived here on the Day before, being then on his Return home from said Works, tarried apparently for the Purpose of openly endeavouring to prevent the Justices from qualifying, and which he affected with divers, by setting forth in strong Terms the Dangers and Difficulties they would be brought into in the Execution of the Magisterial Duties, under the present government, asserting and declaring That, at the agreement then lately entered into at Philadelphia between the differing Parties, for and against the present Frame of Government, it was openly and particularly stipulated and agreed That matters of Government should not be intermeddled with under the present Frame, in anywise, so that Determinations under it should have Effect; That the Courts of Justice were not to be opened under it; and only so much of it made use of and supported as would carry into Execution our Opposition to our Enemies, and Defence of ourselves against their attempts to subjugate and Enslave us; and nothing farther than what arose from this necessity, or was unavóidably connected with it, was to be adopted, undertaken, or proceeded in until a New Convention should be called.

Furthermore asserting and declaring openly, That not any of the Laws passed by the General Assembly are binding upon the Inhabitants thereof, because the Members which constituted that House were not elected by a Majority of the People, and that the said laws cannot be put into Execution. And that he would Challenge and dare any Jury to find and pass a Verdict against any delinquent; for transgression or Disobedience; All which sentiments and Doctrines I find divers Men of Weight here have imbibed, either of themselves or from the Information of what he openly and privately expressed whilst in the County;—By which means the sinews of the Executive part of Government here are very much weakened; The zeal of the zealous for the Establishment and Preservation of legal order and the Defence of our Liberties is damped and discouraged; the weak tho' well meaning are intimidated; and the obstinate are made incorrigible.

Under this state of Matters only Twelve of the Justices qualified upon the 9th Day of July and two since viz. on the 14th of the same

Month, having in view That the Peace of the County should be maintained, and an opportunity afforded to the Inhabitants to take the oath of Fidelity to the state, as required by the late act of Assembly; And as it was then the Hurry of the Harvest, and no officers of the Court appointed or qualified, and a sufficient Number of Individuals had not taken the oath of Fidelity, even to compose a Jury, The Justices concluded not to open the Court at that Term, alledging That if the above Representation was true, an ill timed and wrong judged Temerity might be attended with worse consequences, than an omission or partial neglect of Duty.

Moreover, of the Justices appointed, who did not meet and qualify, some of them have taken an active part, to prevent others from doing it, and have also given, and doth continue to give Opposition to the Exercise of Government, by not only refusing to take the Test required by Law themselves, but by describing it as impolitic, Severe, cruel, unjust, breathing Tyranny, and injudicious in the alternatives, doth prevent the timid and Ignorant, from falling in with and embracing it.

Under this Head I cannot omit to mention, (and I hope to be understood, to do it with as much Tenderness and delicacy as the Nature of the case will bear, and that in Confidence) Respecting the conduct of the Lieutenant of the County, In whom I do confess I have been deceived, that tho' in a languid supine and as if disinterested, lifeless, careless and indifferent manner, he pretends to do and perform the Duties of his station as Lieutenant, yet he presumes to continue to act without having yet taken the oath of Fidelity to the State as enjoined by the late act of assembly, which I cannot but construe as an audacious trifling and dispensing with Law and Government; But in the mean Time I will do him the Justice to say That I have heard him tell others that it ought to be complied with, The force of which Inculcation is nevertheless, destroyed by his own Example.

The Commission for William Rowan, appointing him sheriff for the County, I am informed is come, tho' I have not seen it, neither hath he called for it, and which I am doubtful will have a farther Tendency to disgust a Number of those who formerly were leading Men in the County, as he is very disagreeable to them, and said to be a very unfit and unsuitable Person for the office; and it is really doubted whether he can find the requisite security within the County.

The Commission coming to him was very unexpected to me, tho' in Reality I am to be charged with neglect in not Writing sooner, but my Motives were That I hoped and expected some of our leading Men would ere now have altered the Line of their Conduct, and therefore postponed, that I might not be obliged to give the Council such a disagreeable account of our publick affairs, and did I now see a Prospect of Things being more favourable I would not have given you the Trouble of this either in Matter or Language as it stands.

But I shall proceed to inform the Council why I did not expect the Commission to be sent to William Rowan: On my Return here from the Assembly, Viz^t, on the first day of April, and being then appointed to some of the offices in this County, I immediately waited upon Mr. Charles Lukens, the sheriff elect, and who the electors had in view at the Time of the Election, in order finally to know his Mind, whether he would or would not accept of the office of Sheriff for the County the Remainder of the year, To which he consented; That if he could be indulged with a Deputy, and if Government was established he would serve the County; I shortly after returned to Philadelphia, Viz. about the middle of April, in order to bring up my family, at which Time the Council having adjourned I was disappointed of making mention of the Matter unto the Members in Council, and after essaying divers Times to wait upon the Secretary, I was also disappointed by his not being at Home at the Times I called, until the Morning of the Day that I set out from Philadelphia for this Place, Viz. the 26th Day of April, when I acquainted him of my Conversation with Mr. Lukens, and that he had Consented to serve in that office, and that if the Commission had not been then granted to M^r. Rowan, nor a Promise or Grant thereof made to him, The consent of Mr Lukens should be laid before the Council, when they should again meet, that they might take such order therein, and do what to them should seem meet, and which Mr Matlack promised to charge his memory with, and inform the Council thereof; This matter being then stipulated and settled (as I tho't) and the 8th Day of July, as before mentioned, being appointed for the meeting of the Justices, I dispatched a letter to Mr Lukens, then at Carlisle, informing him thereof, and that I requested his attendance here, and desired to know whether he would yet serve as Sheriff for the county the remainder of the year, on receipt of which he readily came over, and informed me that as he had removed his Family to Carlisle, he could not attend here constantly but that he would accept the office, and superintend the same with carefulness, until he could again remove here; But the commission to Mr Rowan, coming up so shortly after, and the backwardness and aversion of those who ought to be active at this time, prevented me from sending this account until now.

These things I have mentioned so particularly inasmuch as Mr Rowans commission yet remaineth in town, and he hath not applied with his security, that the Council being made acquainted with the facts, may take such order and give such directions as to them may seem meet.

I now mention the names of those Gentlemen, which were in the general commission and who have hitherto neglected to take the Oath of Fidelity, and to qualify as Justices, Viz. David McConoughy, Richard McCalister, William Smith, Samuel Ewing, John Hinkle, John Harbach, Thomas Fisher, and John Mickle, Junr, of whom some have been active in their endeavours to prevent others from

qualifying, and some abroad, and others inattentive, timid, and indifferent.

In respect to the offices of Register and Recorder,* which I have opened and attendeth upon, I find no interruption either in attendance or execution, and of the Prothonotaries Office I have not hitherto received the Books and Papers, the Reason whereof I shall now give, that upon examination of the Books, which had been kept by Mr Stevenson, the Books of the Register's Office and the Orphan's Court were so blended, that they cannot be separated, and the Orphans' Court Books with the Prothonotary's, parts of the Records and proceedings of which, are in the same Books, with the Records of the other, so that until I am vested with authority to receive the Orphans' Court Papers and Records, I cannot with propriety receive the others, neither can I receive the Papers of the Quarter Sessions unless authority is first vested in me for that Purpose.

The publick seals to be made use of for the County, is a matter which I presume ought to be considered, and the Form, size, and Device I always chose to be submitted to the Directions of Council, and for that Purpose spoke with Mr. Matlack, and also Col. John Morris, before I left Philadelphia, (but I suppose that hurry of Business hath prevented their attention thereto) and whenever they are compleated I shall instantly procure the Payment thereof, but as on the one Hand I have been sometimes discouraged from the Causes before mentioned, and on the other, not receiving any account Relative thereto, from either of those gentlemen, the matter rested, and Delay hath been the Consequence. But if Government is carried into Execution, they ought to be provided, and I would humbly request Directions therein from Council, as I neither expect Directions or assistance at present from hence.

Having in a full and explicit, tho' tedious manner, Related the situation of this County at present In Respect to legal and Civil matters, I would humbly Request of Council to point out to me what Line of Conduct I shall observe, and as much as possible promote the good and salutary effects of government and act with safety to myself; And in particular, I would request to be truly informed Relative to the Extend of the before hinted agreement which should have been entered into between the Friends of the present Frame of Government, and those who were in the opposition thereto, and whether the operations of the executive parts of government were thereby limited and restrained in the manner before set forth by Mr. Ross, as I can with Certainty and Safety assure you Sir, That the Propagation of that Doctrine by him and others, hath been the source of the inactivity, supineness and obstinacy under which we are now settled and likely to remain; And if the Matter hath been aggravated and misrepresented by him, The true state thereof from

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 187, 191.

Council will produce considerable salutary effects in promoting the Union and Peace of the People, and greatly facilitate their submission to the just and legal operations of Government.

The Return of Justices for the Township of Bexwich I have received and send inclosed, on which I shall just mention, and afterwards submit, the appointment to Council; I was informed by Mr. McCalister That Mr. Slagle would not serve in the office, and he being for many years past a Magistrate, and his Experience, joined with his great Influence amongst the Germans would render him doubly useful at this Time; I made it my Business to wait upon him in order to inform myself of the Matter, so that no Disappointment in that Case might ensue; on which he gave me full assurance That he will accept the office and act therein, if appointed; and farther, Mr. Lilly, the other Person, on the Return, and who is by situation a next Neighbor to Mr. Slagle, doth not incline to act on account of his Domestic Affairs, should he be appointed. This Information I tho't it my Duty to give, That Council being informed, may act as to them may seem meet in the Premises, but I would be glad that one of them were as soon as possible appointed, as there is a large scope of Country there, which is now destitute, by Reason of Mr. McCalister's non acceptance and absolute Refusal to serve, thro' disaffection to The Frame of Government.

The Return for Manchester Township is not yet brought to me, nor have I been enabled to procure it, tho' I have had sundry promises thereof; The Names of the Persons, however, are Peter Wolf and Frederick Eichelberger, both of whom are good judicious Men, and as I am informed, are both willing to act if appointed. I conversed with Peter Wolf, and he testified his Consent to me, and as the Township is large, and joins to this Town, where the Justices are few considering the number of the Inhabitants; I would presume That if Council can proceed upon this Information, It would not be unnecessary to nominate both.

It is true, and I mention it for the farther Information of Council, That some of the Inhabitants of the Township are desirous to hold another Election, alledging that tho' the above named Persons were their Choice at that Time, yet they some Time after the Election, which was held at the Time fixed by the act of assembly for that purpose, said that they would not accept thereof; But as they now Consent, I presume That is not a legal Bar in the Way of their appointment. This acct. I had from the Person who hath the Return, and he did not Incline to give it me, until the Township would hold the proposed Election, How be it I will endeavour as soon as possible to procure the Return and transmit it.

Having thus given an impartial account of the state of the County, if Government is to be fully put in force, I shall be happy in receiving the Direction and Orders of Council, and will do my endeavours

as far as my Province Extends to Execute the Trust Reposed in me with Fidelity.

I am May it Please your Honour,

Your Honour's most obedient

humble Servant,

ARCHIBALD M'CLEAN.

The Honourable George Bryan, Esquire.

P. S. There is urgent necessity for the opening an Orphans' Court, but whether that can be done with propriety, before the Sessions and other Courts are opened I shall submit to the Council & be guided by their Directions.

Warrant for Arrest of several persons in York County, 1777.

Pennsylvania, ss.

By sundry depositions* from the County of York, in said state, taken before William Leas, Esqr, one of the Justices of the peace in & for said County. It appears that a certain Lieu^t Reynolds, belonging to one of the aditional Regiments, and a certain W^m. McCoy said to be a Lieu^t of Capt Shea's comp^y, & one Ogilvie, with divers others to Deponents then unknown, on the second day of this Instant, August, did in a Riotous manner assault and beat and otherways ill treate Daniel Messerly, Esqre, Casper Donner, Capt Daniel May, George Foehler, John Kurtz and John Detter, all of the County afs'd.

This is to authorize and and impower you forthwith to apprehend the said William McCoy, Lieu^t Reynolds and, Ogilvie, if found, in your Baliwicke, and the said William McCoy, Lieu^t Reynolds and Ogilvie, and them or cither of them bring before the Supreme Executive Council of said State to answer unto said complaint and to be further dealt with according to law. Given under my hand, &c.

August 13th, 1777.

Signed,

G. BRYAN, V. P.

Directed.

To James Claypoole, Esqr, Sheriff of the county of Philadelphia.

* See the depositions on page 497–500.

State Navy Board to Supreme Executive Council, 1777.

State Navy Board, Augt 18th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

Agreeable to your orders for furnishing James Hopkins, Esqre, with a Boat & Eight men to proceed down the River & Bay of Delaware We issued our orders to the Commodore who furnished him with a Shallop & 3 men as also Four Batteaus & Eight men. Six whereof were procured from Colo. William Bradford at the Camp near Billingsport & the other Two were hired. And it appears to us that they left Billingsport the Fourteenth of July, ult., & returned to the City of Philadelphia the Ninth Inst., & was upon the service Twenty-seven Days.

By order of ye Board,

JOSEPH BLEWER, Cm.

Directed,

To the Honorable Supreme Executive Council.

Colonel Galbraith to President Wharton, 1777.

Lancaster, 14th August, 1777.

May it please your Excellencie,

Sir, since my letter to you of the 5th Ins^t I have had a General Tower thro' the Battalions already formed in this County, & have set nearly three Eighths of the Battalions on foot for the Camp at Chester, (as I rec'd no answer to my last) most of which I hope will arrive at Camp by the middle of next week. They have neither arms, accoutriments, Camp-kittles, &c., except blankets, which they had Perticular orders to Procure. Their Number supposed to be near 1,000 men, the militia of the Borough I have detained on Acc^t of the Prisoners. I have consulted the gun-smiths of this county as to making of arms & they in a General way hold out from £8. s15. to £9 for Musquetts & Byonet; Shocking prices! I did not think proper to agree with them at such rates, but at the same time proposed to give them the Philad^a prices: in answer to which they were willing to make arms on the same pay the Philadelphians did, provided they could procure Materials at the same rate, which they were at this time not possessed of. As to the 600 stand of arms lately made in this county, I am afraid there will be a poor account of them.

I have herewith sent you the reports of officers elected in four

Battalions, for Commissions, which are all that's come to my hand as yet; hope they may be made out as quick as possible so that the officers may have them, as many of them are near to the camp now.

By day after to-morrow I hope to have all the Districts in the County formed, with & without returns; matters seem to have a much better face with us now than some time agoe, & hope that in a little time matters will go on smooth. The prisoners of war and tories were rec'd on their arrival at Susquehannah by such guard as was ordered, & marched off without delay.

As to Perticulars here, Mr. Hubbley is in Town & can inform you much better than I can with my pen. I have the honour to rest your Excellencies most

Obedient humble servant,

BARTREM GALBRAITH,
Lieu^t for Lancaster County.

Directed,

On publick service.

To His Excellencie, Thos Wharton, Esqr, Presed^t State of Pensyv^a Philad^a. By a soldier.

P. S. Colo. Rodgerses return of Battalion is come to hand after my letter was wrote, but not sealed, therefore inclose it with the others, & so much hurried have not time to Copy them off to the Secretary, but hope that they are plain enough to make out the Commissions. I shall be able in a day or two to Furnish you those to be sent to Camp. Can't do it now as I have to ride 18 miles this morning to hold an Election in one of the districts.

Your Excel^ce most ob^t Humble
Servt, in haste.
BARTREM GALBRAITH, L. L. C.

15th Aug^t, 1777. 4 o'clock, A. M.

General Conway to Supreme Executive Council, 1777.

Camp, the 15th August, 1777.

Gentlemen,

Having the honour to Command a Pennsylvania Brigade, I think it my Duty to inform you of the situation of the troops entrusted to me. The four Pennsylvania Regiments in Brigade are Very Weak—one is two hundred men strong, the three others are upon an average, one hundred and sixty. Having lost a good many men since our arrival in this State by the seduction of the officers or non Commissioned officers of the Georgia Battalion, and of those belonging to a corps rais'd, I am told, by a French artillery officer

called *Roman;* it is thought, with some foundation, there a good many men have been Debauch'd by the Militia, where they have been persuaded to serve as substitutes; this injures the army very much and makes it impossible for the Regiments to fill up; the militia in general, hurt the army, and are absolutely good for nothing. I have seen it clearly this Campaign, and it is equally clear I Believe to every one in this army, if (what God forbid) any misfortune happens this campaign, it will arise chiefly from the foolish confidence putt in Militia—the Trenton affair is no proof to the contrary. Women and Children are as good in a surprize as men. I am afraid that, fine affair has Done you more harm than good, for it has fill'd you with such security as made you neglect the proper means to putt your army upon a respectable footing. It is next to madness to imagine that undisciplined troops will make any thing of a tolerable stand in the field against troops, any way officer'd and disciplined, therefore, my opinion is that you should attach to each Pennsylvania Regiment a Militia Company, During the remainder of the Campaign, under the Denomination of State Granedeers, or State Volunteers, or Light Infantry. I am sure they will render more service than six times the number of Militia together; proper regulations might be made to make this agreeable to the Militia, and it would do some service to the army, as I am pretty sure that the other States would soon follow the salutary example.

I am with Respect,

Gentlemen,

your most obed^t humble serv^t,

T. CONWAY, B. G.

Directed,

To The Honorable Board of War of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Supreme Executive Council to Lieutenants of Certain Counties, 1777.

Circular to the following Counties, Northampton 350, Berks 350.

To the Lieu. of the Counties of Northampton & Berks.

Philadelphia, August 15, 1777.

In Council.

S^r,

Congress, on the 8^d Ins^t, passed a Resolve Impowering Gen. Washington to demand of the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey & Pennsylvania, such number of the Militia of each State as he thought necessary

to assist the army in the Northern Department, to serve until the 15 November of next, unless sooner relieved by the Continental Troops, or dismissed by the Commanding officer of the Department. Gen. Gates being appointed to command the Northern Army has, in consequence of s'd Resolve, applyed to the State for 750 Men as a proportionable part of such of the Militia as His Excellency, Gen. Washington, thinks necessary to demand of the several States upon this Occasion. The State of Pennsylvania has, heretofore, discovered a noble spirit in this glorious struggle for Liberty, and therefore the Council cannot doubt that the Militia of your County will now turn out and assist their Bretheren in the adjoyning State of New York, with the utmost cheerfulness, for it is much better that we attack the enemy at a distance than at Home; this truth woeful experience has evinced to the good people of New Jersey our readiness to step out of this State to aid our Bretheren in another, and who are all concerned in the same Virtuous Cause, will intitle us to expect the same friendly assistance. I therefore request you to call out the 2d class of the Militia of your County, & File those with yours, make up the number demanded and ordered from Bucks County, all who are immediately to march to , and follow such orders as they may receive from Gen. Gates, or the officer commanding. It may not be amiss to mention to you for the information & satisfaction of the Gentlemen that may compose the second Class, that from this City, the County, & County of Bucks, two Classes have each served their 2d month, and the third is now on Duty, & also two Classes from Chester, and one from York & Cumberland; the situation of the two back Counties, Northumberland & Westmoreland, respecting the Indians, makes it necessary at this time to permit the Militia to remain at home.

I am with respect Sr,

your very hum. servt,

Note—one of the Classes of Philadelphia County did march to Jersey with alacrity as soon as called upon.

SUP. EXE. COUNCIL TO FREDERICK LEIMBACK, ESQR, 1777.

Philada, August 15, 1777.

Sir,

The Petition of Henry Funk & Geo. Kreibel was this day laid before the Council representing that they have lately been apprehended in the County of their residence and committed to the Goal of this County by you, for refusing to take and subscribe the test required by the laws of this State to be taken, and praying that a day may be appointed for the hearing of this complaint in order

that they may obtain that liberty to which they apprehend they are intitled.

The Council, having taken the said petition into their consideration, have directed me to write to you on this subject, and to remind you that the law is clear and express as to the circumstance which shall justify the commitment of a person refusing or neglecting to take the test—to wit, *travelling out of the County or city in which he usually resides*, without the certificate, &c. But, from the representation of the petitioners they were not found travelling out of the County in which they usually reside, nor does the contrary appear by the commitment, it will, therefore, be highly proper for you to reconsider the case of the petitioners, and if you find any difficulty arise therein, it will be adviseable to call to your assistance two other Justices, and if, after such conference, you shall still find any difficulty arise to prevent the enlargement of the petitioners Council appoint the 9th of September for hearing both parties, but this there is reason to hope will not be found necessary. I am directed by the Council to desire you to be careful not to extend this law further than the words of it will fully justify, and it will therefore, &c.*

Directed,

To Frederick Leimback, Esqr.

Resolve of Congress, 1777.

Extract from a letter of Colonel Richardson, dated Sussex County, 9 August, 1777.

"I have in my possession one hundred and ninety nine counterfeit thirty dollar bills, which I took from Thomas Cockayne of this county, agent to a Walter Franklin of New York, & I transmit to you a letter from Franklin to Cockayne, which accompanied the bills from York. Upon examination it appears that a Thomas Lightfoot (who is concerned with Franklin in an Iron Works) received the letter and bills from Simon Kollick & delivered them to Cockayne. Lightfoot and Cockayne were carried before a Magistrate, and after being examined by him they were discharged. By propositions from Cockayne to Adams (a copy of which I transmit) it is evident they had a design to circulate the bills."

Extracted by CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 269.

In Congress, August 15, 1777.

Resolved, That the part of Colonel Richardson's letter, which relates to Thomas Lightfoot* be sent to the Executive Council of Pennsylvania with a request to have him secured.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

(COPY.) LETTER FROM GEN. WASHINGTON TO CONGRESS, 1777.

Head Quarters, Camp at Cross roads, Aug. 15, 1777.

Sir,

Mr. Du Coudray† has laid before me a plan of the river, by which it appears that for a considerable space between the two sand banks on the east side of Fort Island there is from four to 4½ fathoms depth of water. According to this representation there would be room for three frigates to lie between those banks, in such a position as to enfilade the works at Fort Island and make it difficult to maintain them. There are but two ways of remedying this inconvenience; one by having a sufficient number of chevaux de frize sunk at the entrance between the two banks, and the other by having the left flank of Fort Island fortification supported by a good battery, capable of resisting the cannon of the ship, & obliging them to quit their station. The first is evidently preferable because the efficacy of it will be more certain. A few chevaux de frize properly placed might effectually bar all access to the ships; but there is a possibility that any battery we can construct might be overpowered by the fire of the shipping. And as we have few cannon and Fort Island is itself a marshy spot incapable of affording earth for the batteries necessary to be raised upon it, which must be brought from the opposite shore, it would not be prudent to multiply works there more than cannot be avoided. It would also be a great advantage gained, to secure the island from annoyance, except in one point and that in front from only three ships at a time, which would be effected by stopping up the passage between the two banks with chevaux de frize. I should therefore think it of importance to have this measure immediately adopted and carried into execution.

With great respect, &c.,

(Signed) G°. WASHINGTON.

Read in Congress, Aug. 16, 1777.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XL p. 269.

† See page 360, 363.

Ordered, That a copy of the letter from General Washington of the 15 be sent to the Supreme Executive Council of Pensylvania, and that they be requested to have the Generals views carried into execution with all possible dispatch.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Directed.

To His Excellency the President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pensylvania.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, 15 August, 1777.

Resolved,

That the executive authorities in the several States, be requested to transmit to Congress, accounts of all monies advanced, & expences incurred by prisoners of War, during their residence in their respective States, & that such accounts be transmitted within the space of twelve weeks after receipt of this notice, or else to be forever thereafter foreclosed.

Copy from the Journals,

WILLIAM CH. HOUSTON, D. Sec'y.

Pennsylvania.

Isaac Melcher to Supreme Executive Council 1777.

Aug. 15th, 1777.

Sir,

The bearer Mr. Moleneux one of my assistants waits on y^r Hble Council for an order for five or six thousand pounds for ye use of the several Barracks in my departments, indeed I shoud stand in need of Ten thousand as I am about to lay up a sufficient quantity of wood for ye winter, last winter we Expended upwards of three thousand Cords, no doubt as much will be wanted ye next, besides beding bedstead, &c., all which are much higher than last fall. I shall loose no time to make ye necessary provision, I am just going after some wood,

woud wait on ye Council & take their advice in some matters which must defer untill another opp^y.

I am Sir,

your hble Servt

ISAAC MELCHER.*

P. S. The price of wood will be ten pounds next if nothing is done to prevent it.

I. M.

Directed,

Timothy Matlack, Esq., Sec'y of the Hble Executive Council.

Resolutions of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, 16 August, 1777.

Resol

That the president & supreme executive council of Pennsylvania be requested to give Brigadier Hand such assistance from the militia of the counties of Westmoreland, Northumberland & Bedford, as General Hand may think necessary.

Extract from the minutes,

CHAS. THOMSON Sec'y.

Col. Wm. Coats to Sup. Exec. Council, 1777.

Sir,

I left a List of Officers that commissions was to have been fil'd up for, the Battalion is to march this day and the officers refuse to march without their commissions, I think you will find upon the list a Benjamin Brooke 2nd Capt. in the 6th Battalion in the Room of Capt. Pritzman, Resigned, also David Davis 1st Lieut. in the name of some other person that was appointed, do sir if possible let me have their Commissions, as you know they think they are not officers without.

I have the Honor to

remain your most

Obedient Humble Servant,

WM. COATS, C. C.

Lieut. of the County of Phila.

Sunday, August 16th, 1777.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esq.,

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 212.

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL LIBRARY

Certificate From Col. Coats, 1777.

This is to certify that the officers as under ——— where appointed in the first Battalion of Philada. Co.

No. 1.
Capt. ———,
First Lt ———,
Second Lt Paul Knepper,

No. 4.
Capt. ——— Gobbles,
1st Lt ———,
2nd Lt Conrad Grim,

Ensign ———,

No. 7.
Capt. ———,
First Lt ———,
Second Lt ———,
Ensign Abraham Krider,
Lieut. for 5th Battalion Joseph Levering,

Augt 13th 1777.

WM. COATS Lieut. Col.

John Evans to V. P. Geo. Bryan, 1777.

Chester, 11 o'clock, 16th August, 1777.

Sir,

Upon my arrival at Chester, I made inquiry into the state of the Militia, and I find by the report of my brother and the Quarter master General, that there is now in this place about a thousand of the militia from the different Counties, from Berks County part of two classes, of company's, from Cumberland one Company, from Lancaster part of two companies, none yet from York, or Northamton the Chester County Class about half compleated, and when compleated will have arms sufficient, a number of arms will be wanted for the several companeys from the different counties. The Quarter master says he will be dificulted to find shelter for any more troops at this place, all the empty houses being now occupied. If two clases should come here from Berks it will defeate the order of yesterday, in sending them to Peeks-Kill, unless the express should get over in time to prevent the remainder of the second Class from coming this way, General Armstrong has not yet been here.

I am Sir with
greate respect yr
friend & Hble Servt
JOHN EVANS.

Directed,

To The Honorable George Bryan, Esq'r., Vice President of the State of Pennsylvania.

To the care of Mr. Vandegraft at the Cross Keys.

JACOB MORGAN TO V. P. GEORGE BRYAN, 1777.

Reading, Berks County, Augt 17th, 1777.

Sir,

I just now had the Honour of a Letter from you of the 15th Instant, by Express; ordering the Second Class of Militia of this County, to March. It is with great Pleasure I can inform you that we have already marched two Classes; having understood the order of His Excellency the President in Council of the 31st of last Month, in a Letter from him of that Date to me, to intend the Marching of Two Classes.

It is presumed that the Greater Part of the Twelve Companies, of which those Classes consist, are by this Time at Chester; as several of them went from this Town the Week before last, others last Week, and the last Company yesterday.

The whole Number, in the two Classes, Officers and Privates, are six Hundred and fifty six Men; in the Opinion of every one here hearty and able Men, fit to take the Field against our inveterate Enemies. The two Battalions are commanded by Colonels Daniel Hunter & Daniel Udree.

I am, with great Esteem and the
Utmost Regard, Sir,
Your most obedient
and most humble Servant,
JACOB MORGAN.

Directed,

To the Honourable George Bryan Esquire, Vice President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia.

BRIG. GENERAL CONWAY TO SUP. EXEC. COUNCIL, 1777.

Warminster Camp, Bucks County, 17th August, 1777.

Gentlemen,

I did myself the honour to write to the Board three Days agoe, concerning the Weakness of the Pennsylvania Regimens, and proposed the means by which I imagined they might be reinforced. Although I was not compelled on the subject, it is nevertheless the Duty of an officer to give his advice when he has reasons to believe it might contribute to the Welfare of the Cause. Since the last Letter I had the honour of Writing to you, I heard that you had

Resolved to send seven hundred and fifty men to the Northern army. I must own to you that this resolve seems to me to be nothing else than Wasting men in a most wanton manner, and at a time when men are so hard to be gott. I have already mentioned that in general, bodys of Militia were of little use, but certainly if they are of no great use in their own country, they will be infinitely less so if they are sent two or three hundred miles from it, one half of these seven hundred men will remain sick or desert in the road, and what handfull of them might reach the Northern army, will do but little execution. What great strength will a few harrass'd rawmen add to all the eastern Militia and the troops already geatherd? none indeed; but seven hundred men taken from this State in the present juncture, will injure it very much, it seems clear to every man in the Continent this Day, that Philadelphia is the enemys chief object he certainly means to visit that place, and will attempt it before this campaign is over. You have nothing to depend upon but your own troops, for the enemy will make such feints, manœuvres, and Diversions, as will deprive you from the succour of the other States; and indeed you might do without it, if you make proper use of your own forces. I find that your troops make up the strong half of this army, and although your Regiments are not where they should or might be, yet they seem to me beyond the others. I am sure you could make up an army able to stopp Mr. Howes progress, this must be your chief care; reinforce your Regiments and do not deprive yourselves of men which you certainly will want before it is Long.

I speak to you freely and candidly as becomes a man who fights for Liberty.

I am with Respect
Gentleman,
your most obedt
humble servant,
T. CONWAY, B. G.

Adam Hubley to President Wharton, 1777.

Camp at Graham-park, Augt 18th, 1777.

Sir,

In a late resolve of Congress, they have been pleased to order the Regimental pay masters, to examine into & settle the Recruiting Accots of the Officers in each State respectively, * but the mode laid down for that purpose, cannot be put in execution, as the Officers in general, cannot produce Vouchers, for the Monies, expended, which has occasioned a stoppage in settling the same, before this Time.— I should be glad to know what is to be done in this case, whether

See page .

or no, an Oath will answer the same purpose, if so, the sooner we can be informed, the better it will be, as several of my Capts. with their Subs. have drawn from 15 to 1800 dollars, and never have brought above 12 or 15 men to the field. And notwithstanding the large sum of Money, they have drawn, & the few Men they have brought, still they would plead the want of Money when I have ordered them from time to time on the Recreu'g service.

I beg leave your Excellency wth the Hon^l the Executive Council will take this most necess'y matter into consideration, and pass your opinions thereon.

I am S^r with greatest respect

Your Excellencys most Ob^t hum^l Servt,

ADM. HUBLEY Jr., L^t C^l 10th R^t. *

Directed,

His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Esq., President of the Supreme Executive Council for the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Col. B. Galbraith to Col. Matlack, 1777.

Lancaster, 18th August, 1777.

Sir,

In my Letter of the 14th Ins^t † to his Excellency, I mentioned that I would furnish you with a List of the Officers who had marched to Camp at Chester, in order that they might receive their Commissions there. I'm much hurried & out of my power to send you that List, but request that you will send to Camp at Chester, Commissions for three Class's of the Militia agreeable to the regulations of the Militia Law, for such Battalions as I have made report to you of. In haste I remain with esteem your Humble Servt,

BARTREM GALBRAITH.

Directed,

To Col^o Timothy Matlack.

Fav^d by Col^o Lowry.

* See answer on page, 533.
† See page 520.

Supreme Executive Council to Col. Hubley, 1777.

In Council, Philad^a, August 19th 1777.

Sir,

This Day I recd your Letter of the 18th Inst* informing Council that the mode which Congress had orderd the Regimental Paymaster to adopt in settling the accounts with the Recruiting Officers, cannot be put into execution, because those Gentlemen have neglected to procure proper Vouchers to shew how they have expended the Publick monies. This is such a neglect as will not admit of Council interfering in favor of the delinquents, for it is too serious a truth that the Publick Monies have been most shamefully Wasted. Congress was Informed of this and thought it absolutely necessary to put a stop to it, and was induced to pass the Resolve you allude to. So that if the Recruiting Officers expect to be indulged in this matter they must apply to Congress. That Hon^e Body saw the Necessity of putting that business on another footing by recommending to the different States to undertake it. Whether it will answer their expectations time must discover, it cannot however prove more injurious to the Publick than that already tryd.

I am with respect,

Sir, y^r V. H. S'vt.

Directed,

To Col^l Hubley.

Col. Galbraith to Pres. Wharton, 1777.

Lancaster, 19th August, 1777.

May it please your Excellencie.

Sir,—In your Letter of the —— I'm ordered to double the guards upon the Prisoners at Lancaster. Upon consulting with Mr. Atlee I find that the Guards now on duty there are composed of one Company under Capt Weaver, raised by order of Congress for this duty, which should consist of 76 privates, exclusive of Serjints, Corporals, Drum & fife, & is nearly compleat, & about 40 Militia likewise under Captn Weavers direction, amounting in the whole to one hundred & twinty men. While Capt. Weavers Company was a raising, the Militia was ordered by the Committee to do duty under him & his Officers (to save the expense of a double set

* See page 581.

of Officers) & as his Company increased they, the Militia, were gradually reduced to the number now under him. These Militia have been regularly mustered & paid off by Mr. Atlee at the end of each month out of the publick moneys in his hands, & with Capt. Weavers Company afford just three relieves for the different posts nescisary for Centries in Lanc^r, allowing about 40 men on Guard each day.

As the Militia of the town of Lancaster have now gott into pritty good order so that I can upon the Shortest notice Increase the Guards, and I'm uncertain whither the Presid^t meant that I should Increase the Guards to double the number of Capt. Weavers Company only, or to double the number of the whole Who now do duty under him Including the 40 Militia.

I beg leave to trouble the President and ask his further directions in the Matter, as soon as convenient, which will be Punctially Complied with, by his most obed't H'ble Serv't,

BARTREM GALBRAITH.
Lieut. for Lancaster County.

Directed,
To His Excellencie Thomas Wharton, Esq'r, President for the State of Pennsylv^a, Philada.

President of Supreme Executive Council to Joseph Donaldson, 1777.

Philadelphia, 19th August, 1777.

Sir,

I layed before Council your Letter, written jointly with Mich^l Hahn & John Hay.* Precepts for the offenders you complain of, were instantly issued, & John Reynolds, an Ensign, William McCoy, a Lieutenant, & Andrew Byers, a Serjeant in a Company under John Steel, Junr, of Carlisle, were bound over. These, by their own account, were at Dover-Town on the 2^d Instant, & probably all aided in the riot, unlawful imprisonments, &c. Reynolds confessed he tyed the hands of Captain Daniel May.

Mr. Hogg, of Cumberland, will transmit their recognizance. Care should be taken to hold the complainants bound to prosecute.

The attention that has been paid by you to this business, will, it is to be hoped, check the vivacity of young officers; for they are chiefly to be blamed for excesses of this nature.. The privates can hardly refuse to take a part.

I am, Sir,
Your most Obed. Servant.

Directed,
To Joseph Donaldson, Esq.

* See this letter depositions, p. 496.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1777.

War Office, Aus^t 19th, 1777.

Sir,

As the Furnace for casting of Cannon stands still for Want of Copper, a Load of which has been sent down to this City from French Creek; but it is said to belong to this State, & the affair relative to the Furnace & Materials for casting the Cannon is, I believe yet unsettled. But as it would be disserviceable to the public Interest for the Works to be stopped, I must request your Excell'cy & the Council will consent that the Copper should be used for the present, & the Value paid at the Time of Settlement for the whole.

I have the Honour to be,

With great Respect,

Your very obed. Serv.,

RICHARD PETERS, Secy.

Directed,

Public Service.

His Excellency, Thos Wharton, jr., Esq., President of the Sup. Ex. Council of Pennsylvania.

War Office,

Richard Peters, Sec'y.

Thomas Dorsey to Supreme Executive Council, 1777.

To the Honorable, the Supreme Executive Council for the State of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen,

Having had the honor of your appointment as Pay Master for the Malitia of this State, and already received and paid considerable Sums, tho, not altogether satisfied of the propriety of acting without your orders, and numbers of the Malitia being hourly expected from the different Counties, Should be glad of your honor's particular direction in the disposal of the Charge Committed to my care; and as my Conduct in the Field has always met the approbation of my Superiors, I flatter myself the conducting in this to equal Satisfaction.

Gentlemen,

Having refused considerable offers in the service of the States, from no other principles than those of honor, and trusting to the generosity and justness of your honor's determinations, enter'd on a post to which there are no Conditions as yet fixt, should esteem your

honor's taking my early entering the Service into consideration, and settling my rank & pay, which favor shall be gratefully Acknowledged by your honor's most Obedient humble Servant,

THOM. DORSEY.

Augt 20th, 1777.

Directed,

The Honorable Supreme Council for the State of Pennsylvania.

Supreme Executive Council to Delegates in Congress, 1777.

Philadelphia, 20th Aug^t, 1777.

Gent,

Council desire that you will represent to Congress that the Militia last called out in this State, have been rendevousing at Chester, & are still arriving there. As this is the Season for sowing Winter corn, on which this county greatly depends, & labourers are become very scarce, they are sensible that great distress must ensue upon continuing these people embodied. In this circumstance, it will afford very sensible satisfaction to the Council, as well as relief to the industrious Inhabitants, if public affairs may admit of the dismissing of part of the Militia, especially as they are very deficient in Arms, & blankets, & totally unprovided with tents,

I am,

Gent,

Your most obed^t

& very hum Servt,

Directed,

To Robert Morris, Geo. Clymer, Daniel Roberdeau, James Wilson & Jonathan Smith, Esq^rs, Delegates in Congress for Pennsilvania.

Archibald McClean to Vice President George Bryan, 1777.

York, 21st August, 1777.

May it please your Honour.

In my tedious letter of the 12th Instant I endeavoured to give unto the Council an Impartial Account of the present state of the County and also to what causes I attribute it's supineness, inactivity and aversion to the operations of Government.

In the course of which I took occasion, as I was naturally led, to mention the name of Mr Ross, which I designed only as a private Information to the Council of his conduct, when here, and as it appears that the General Assembly, at their last sitting, have by sundry Resolutions, adopted a mode whereby the sense of the people at large may be taken on the question, Whether a convention shall be now called? and which I had heard, (and only heard) was with the Address of the Assembly to the People to be published with the Frame of Government, for their perusal, but none of which have been transmitted here that I know of, and indeed I only got a view of the Address casually on yesterday for the first time.

I would therefore Request, that as there are by the said Resolves a number of copies to be sent to each County, to be distributed among the Inhabitants for their perusal, in order that they may have an opportunity to make up their minds on the question; that Mr Morris be desired to use his endeavours, by the first safe opportunity, either by post or otherwise to send to me the quota for this County, as well in the German as the English, and which I presume will admit of no longer delay, as the time for the question is fast approaching.

But before I conclude this head, I would just mention that I think Numbers of the Inhabitants of this place are already prepossed against the said Address, and from complying with the mode to be adopted by the said Resolves, from the representation given thereof by Mr Ross, he in divers companies having asserted, that it was replete with gross falsehood, and a misrepresentation of facts, and which he farther said would be exposed, and properly answered, and until which is done, or something appears on that head, numbers will continue in a state of suspence.

I would also here beg your indulgence whilst I mention, that tho' I wrote pretty freely with Respect of Mr McCalister, yet I would be understood as giving private information to the Council of his inactivity which arose partly from his natural disposition, and engagement with his domestic affairs, and partly from his not being reconciled to the present frame of government, and being dissatisfied therewith doth not incline to act vigorously, lest a form disagreable to him should by his own acts be Recognized, and remotely be finally established; I have good reasons to believe these to be his motives, but, that he is hearty in our common Defence, if it could be pursued in any other Line I am fully convinced of.*

I must confess I was chagrined, at some part of his conduct, which was, his inattention to the having the Militia arranged as required by the Law, that tho' I had done every thing in my Power by Requesting and pressing, to have the classes of the Militia, in the Battalion to which I belong, (and of which he is also the Colonel, by Election) formed and known, yet such was the inattention shewn

* See Mr. McC's own statement, August 28, p. 558

thereto, that not one class of the Battallion was drawn, or formed, until I offered my service to have it performed upon the fourth day of this month, at which time I happened (and which I now rejoice in) to be drawn in the first class, but being deeply engaged in publick business, could not without neglecting the same procure a substitute, and the procuring of which I could leisurely have done had the classes been made out about three months ago, as the Law directed, but after a few days riding I have been fortunate enough to procure a sufficient substitute, who is now on his march, in obedience of the requisitions of Council.

And now I with pleasure say that more hath been done in a spirited manner amongst the Militia, in some parts of the County since the Date of my former Letter, than hath hitherto been done since the Arrangements under the present Law were first attempted.

As I propose to be in Philadelphia on the latter end of next month or the beginning of October, and not sooner, I should in the mean time be glad, by post or some other safe opportunity, to have about two or three Dozen of Marriage Licenses, as I have nearly distributed those which I brought with me.

I am Sir,

With due Respect and Esteem

Your most obedient humble Servant,

ARCH'D McCLEAN.

P. S. I would be glad to have the Commissions for the other Justices by the next post.

Directed,

To The Honourable George Bryan, Esqr., Vice President of the Supreme Executive Council, Philadelphia.

Leeson Simmons to State Navy Board, 1777.

The Honorable the State Navy Board, Port Penn, Agst ye 21, 1777.

Gentlemen,

At 6 o'clock this morning we discovered one of the Enemies Ships & 2 Schooners abrest of Bombay hook, at 2 o'clock this afternoon Capt Alexander the Frigate Delaware hove out a signal for getting under way, sending the smallest vessel ahead with himself in the sentor and the other Ships with the fire vessels in the rear, the wind S. W., a moderate gail, the have just cleared the lower end of the Iland, we have half an ower ago discovered another of the Enemies Vessels, an do amagin that the other 2 Ships I was informed ware below are not out of Site of them; should the Fleet ingage,

which I mack no doubt they will, shall Dispatch another Express as soon as I can discover what Ships they are ingaged with.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your very Humble Servt,

LEESON SIMMONS.*

This day half after five, in the afternoon, the Enemies frigat that lay at ancor in sight gose under way Standing Down our fleet under all Sail in chase, the smallest vessel about a mile and a half from them.

Resolutions of Congress. 1777.

In Congress, Augst 22d, 1777.

Resolved,

That it be earnestly recommended to the state of Maryland immediately to call out not less than two thousand select militia to repel the expected invasion by the enemy of the state of Pennsylvania, Delaware or Maryland. That 1250 of the militia on the western shore of Maryland repair as soon as possible to Baltimore and Harford towns; that 750 of the militia on the eastern shore repair as soon as possible to George-town on Sassafras, there to wait the directions of his excellency Genl Washington.

That the state of Pennsylvania be requested to keep up 4000 of their militia to assist in repelling the threatened attack of the enemy by the way of Chesapeake and Delaware bay's; that these rendezvous at Lancaster, Downingtown, & Chester, as the council of the said state shall direct, & that they be subject to the orders of General Washington.

That the state of Delaware be requested to call one thousand of their militia to rendezvous at New-port & Christiana Bridge, there to wait the orders of his excellency Genl Washington.

That the state of Virginia be requested to draw out one third of the militia of each of the counties of Prince William, Fairfax, Loudon, Berkeley, Frederick, Dunmore, Faquier and Culpepper, and march them to Fredericktown in the state of Maryland, there to wait the orders of General Washington.

That the militia requested from the states aforesaid be in the pay of the continent until the 30th day of November next, unless sooner dischared by Congress or the commander in chief.

That it be recommended to each of the above states to remove all

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI, p. 275–6.

boats and other craft, provisions, grain, naval and military stores, provender, cattle, and all live stock, waggons, carts and horses in the way of the enemy's march, to places of safety, and to destroy what cannot be removed in due time.

That General Washington be directed to order Brigadier General Smallwood and Colonel Gist to repair immediately to the state of Maryland, to arrange, march and command the militia required of that state.

By Order of Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, Presid't.

Thomas Savadge to State Board of War, 1777.

Pennsylvania Salt Works, Aug^st 22, 1777.

Sir,

I embrace the opportunity of Lieu^t James Satters Coming to Town, to send for five hundred pounds, which you will please to give him an order on the treasurer for and charge it to the account of these Works.

My Millwrights have nearly compleated the mill and pump-work, when done shall go to work with two or three pans in a few days.

I am, Sir,

Your most H'ble Serv't,

THOS. SAVADGE.

Directed,

To the Hon'ble the President of the Hon'ble board of War for the State of Pennsylvania.

P fav^r of Lieu^t Sutter, Esqr.

President Wharton to Gen. Edward Hand, 1777.

Philada., 22^d Aug^t, 1777.

Sir,

I communicated to Council your Letter, & the inclosed accounts* of the late inroads & cruelties of the savages. You may be assured that Council without loss of time, took the same into consideration, and I take this opportunity to inform you, that the most full and explicit Instructions had been already forwarded to Archibald

* See page 443.

Laughlin, Esqr, Lieu^t of Westmoreland. He is commanded to fulfill your orders for detatchments & parties of Militia to the utmost of his power. These dispatches are dated the 5th of this month.

The like injunctions are now forwarded to John Piper, Esquire, Lieutenant of Bedford County, & to Samuel Hunter, Esqr, Lieu^t of Northumberland. We hope you will be able to derive the necessary advantages from the Militia of these Counties.

Your letter & the other papers, we layed before Congress.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obed. hum. serv't.

Directed,

Genl Edw'd Hand.

SUP. EXEC. COUNCIL TO LIEUT'S OF CERTAIN CO'S, 1777.

Philadelphia, 22^d Aug^t, 1777.

Sir,

Council would have been glad to have heard from you concerning the state of the Militia of your County; & the rather, as the Indians have shewn a disposition to be troublesome. Congress have requested of us to direct you to assist General Hand, who is stationed on the Ohio, to take care of the frontier, in such manner as may be necessary. We hope you will be able to do this. The Lieutenants of Northumberland & Westmoreland have like instructions. It is not to be supposed that any persons, who profess any attachment to the common cause of America, yet persist in hindering you to form the Classes. In these Eastern Counties, the Militia are in regular order, & some have embodied three Classes; others two. No Tory pretending to be a Whig, dares hint any opposition, & the monies advanced to substitutes are levying every where.

It is recommended to you, & you are hereby ordered to embody such, & so many of the Militia of Bedford County as the service may require, & as General Hand may demand; taking care to distribute the burden so as to render it equal & easy as may be.

This seems to be the stress of the Campain, General Howe has appeared in Virginia. The Eastern Militia of this state wait on his motions. Genl Burgoine has pressed into the settlements of New York, but on the 16th Ins^t the Militia of Newhampshire gave a signal blow to his rear. While the Militia of New York have repulsed another Corps, which was penetrating by way of Oswego towards the Hudson & Albany, & had blockaded Fort Stanwix. In this

circumstance Council expect that the people of your County, who have formerly exerted themselves in a remarkable manner, in the cause of Liberty, in distant places, will not fail of displaying equal activity & zeal in the defence of their neighbours, & their own families.

I inclose to you a Copy of the request of Congress. Be exact & careful in having the Corps & detachments of Militia which you find out mustered, & their numbers properly certified. We have appointed paymasters of Militia, one for each County, one over all the State. There ought to be one named for Bedford, an exact trusty person.

Letter to Westmoreland.

I wrote to you on the 5th Inst in answer to your desire to be instructed how to act in regard to the demands of Genl Hand for parties & detatchments of Militia. This incloses a copy thereof. I now confirm & renew the orders then given, & I trust you will be able to fullfil them. Congress have since added their request on this head. The Lieuts of Bedford & Northumberland have like instructions from us.

This seems to be the stress, &c., as last part above.

P. S.—In some of the Counties on this side of Susquehanna, 3 Classes of Militia have been drawn out, in others two Classes.

Directed,

To Lieuts of Bedford, Northumberland & Westmoreland.

STATE NAVY BOARD TO SUP. EXEC. COUNCIL, 1777.

State Navy Board, August 23d, 1777.

Gentlemen,

The Continental Navy Board waited on us this morning and requested that we wou'd send down to the assistance of Capt. Alexander three of our armed Galley's and two fire Vessels. The board now request you'l be pleased to take the matter into your consideration and give us such order as you see meet.

By Order of the Board,

JOSEPH BLEWER, Cm.

Directed,

To Hon'ble Supreme Executive Council, Prest

Supreme Executive Council to Lt. Henry. 1777.

Philadelphia, 23d Aug^t, 1777.

Sir,

Council in consequence of the approach of General Howe by way of the bay of Chesapeak, orders you to compleat instantly in the fullest manner the third class of the Militia of the City & Liberties of Philadelphia, & to march the same without loss of time to Downings Town in Chester County.

You are likewise required to embody a detachment with suitable officers of the artillery of the City & Liberties, equal to three eights of the whole of said Corps; and to send them forthwith, with suitable Cannon, in the following divisions. That is to say one half of them to the Burrough of Chester; & the other half to Downingtown, in Chester County.

The third class, & the Artillery above ordered, will on their arrival at the places assigned to them, receive the commands of General Washington.

I am sir,

N. B. The disposition of the Artillery is to be according to the orders of General Armstrong.

Directed.

Wm. Henry, Esq., Lieu^t of Philada. city & Liberties.*

V. P. Geo. Bryan to Col. Galbraith, 1777.

Philadelphia, 23d Aug^t, 1777.

Sir,

A letter to you from Council went by express for Lancaster yesterday. You were then desired to send down no more Militia, but detain them at Lancaster. For the greater clearness, I now desire that you stop any there, any that may arrive from beyond Susquehanna. The design of Council is to form a Corps in your County. In this view, they this day order 2 classes from Northampton to Lancaster.

Gen. W. passes thro' this City early to-morrow, to the westward. The Enemy were yesterday near Sasafras River but still embarked.

I am Sir,

Y^r very obed^t & hum. Servt

G. B. Vice Pres^t.

Directed,

To B. Galbraith, Esq'r.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 275

Sup. Exec. Council, to Lieut. Weitzel, 1777.

In Council, Philadelphia, Augt 23d, 1777.

Sir,

Intelligence was yesterday received by Congress of the arrival of the British Fleet in Chesepeak Bay, and that they are preparing to land the army near the head of the Bay, with a view of penetrating the country this way. This intelligence makes it necessary to alter the orders given for your Militia to march to the northward and therefore instead of complying with that order you are hereby directed to march the first & second class with all possible expedition to the Burrough of Lancaster, which it is feared may be an object of the Enemy, there to be subject to the orders of Gen. Washington. The Council hope that every exertion will be made to compleat these two classes. Your influence and utmost industry will be necessary on this occasion and we firmly rely on your zeal in this righteous cause, and at so important and critical a time to send these classes full and compleat; and that you will leave no measures untried to furnish them with arms & blankets, what difficiencies are unavoidable we request you will immediately inform the Council of, as well as make exact returns of the number of men, and the condition of their arms, &c., that effectual means may be taken to supply them as well as our situation will possibly admit of.

Directed,

To Jno. Weitzel, Esq., Lieut. of Northampton.

President of Congress to President Wharton, 1777.

Philada., August 23d, 1777.

Gentlemen,

In the present critical Situation of Affairs, the Congress have come to the enclosed Resolves* for the Defence of the several States therein mentioned, which I make no Doubt you will immediately carry into Execution. The absolute Necessity of Exertion and Vigour on the Occasion, is too apparent to be pointed out. It is sufficient to observe, that an active and spirited Behaviour in the Militia will have the most beneficial Effects, by convincing our

* See page 498.

Enemies of our Determination to oppose them with the utmost Firmness and Resolution.

I have the Honour to be,

Gentlemen,

your most obed^t &

very h'ble Serv't,

JOHN HANCOCK, Presid^t.

Directed,

On Public Service. To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President, and the Hon'ble Members of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Supreme Executive Council to Lieutenants, 1777.

August the 28^d, 1777.

Sir,

In consequence of the resolves of Congress of the thirty first day of July* last, inclosed, we hereby authorize and require you, taking to your assistance such of the Justices, or Sub-Lieutenants, as may be convenient, to nominate at least four suitable persons to recruit men to fill up the regiments raised in this state, and send their names, as soon as you conveniently can to Council. The persons you nominate may immediately begin to recruit, sending such men as they may enlist, and also such deserters as they take up, as soon as may be, to , where an officer will be appointed by his Excellency General Washington to receive them. Money will be sent to you by the first opportunity. You should take proper security of the persons you nominate, who are to conform strictly to the enclosed resolves of Congress.

Committee for driving off Cattle, to President Wharton, 1777.

Northampton, in Bucks, 23d August, 1777.

Sir,

In Consequence of your Requests of the 25th & 27th July, I colected the Committee of this County for driving off the Stock on ye 31st. Who were unanimously of opinion that the most effectual way to carry the Resolutions of the Assembly into Execution would be to nominate certain persons in each Township, to whom the

* See p. 469, 470.

Orders of Council signed by your Excellency might be directed. The Committee likewise thought proper to appoint James Benezet, John Vandegrift, and Richard Gibbs a Committee of Correspondence to receive from your Excellency the Orders of Council and, whenever the approach of the Enemy may make it necessary, see them put into Execution in such Townships as they shall judge expedient. The persons nominated are as follows, viz:

BENSALEM.—Benjamin Severns, Lawrence Johnson, & Henry Bouser.

BRISTOL BOROUGH.—David Kennedy.

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP.—Robert Patterson & John Barnsley.

FALLS.—Thomas Harvey, William Kilpatrick, & Henry Pitner.

MIDDLETOWN.—Jonathan Hibbs, William Goslin & James Gregg.

SOUTHAMPTON.—Simon Vanarsdal, Nicholas Vanarsdal & Seth Beans.

NORTHAMPTON.—Gerret Dungan, Jacob Bennet, & Christian Hegeman.

NEWTOWN.—Peter Leffertse & Abram Johnson.

LOWER MAKEFEILD.—Peter Vansant, Cornelius Slack & Cornelius Vansant.

UPPER MAKEFEILD.—James Mathews, James McNear & James Tolbert.

WRIGHTSTOWN.—James Barron & Henry McKenstry.

WARWICK.—Benjamin Snodgrass, junr, Andrew McMicken & John Ramsey.

WARMINSTER.—Isaak Hoff & Charles Gerrison.

WARRINGTON.—William Long & Robert Weir.

NEWBRITAIN.—Samuel Weir & John Barton.

BUCKINGHAM.—John Carr, John Sampler, William Simpson & William Bennet.

SOLESBURY.—Barnet Vanhorn, William Neily & Joshia Winter.

PLUMSTEAD.—Robert Gibson, John Dunlap & David Nesbit.

BEDMINSTER.—Andrew Armstrong, Robert McNeily & Peter Stout.

HILTOWN.—James Armstrong & Henry Lewis.

I am
Your Excellency's
Most Obedient &
Most Hum'ble Servt,
HENRY WYNKOOP.

Directed.

To his Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr., President of Pennsylvania.

See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p, 280.

General Orders reported by Town Major.

August 1st, 1777.

General Washington Commanding.

August 2d, 1777.

Instructions for the Officer who is to Escort the Prisoners of, and State Prisoners to Virginia.

1. You must take under your Care all the Prisoners of War now in this City, and march them by the usual Road to Frederick-Town, in Virginia, where you are put them into the Gaol under the care of the Officer commanding there.

2. The Serjeant who Commands the other Party is to take charge of all the Prisoners of State or Tories now in the New Gaol of this City, and escort them to Winchester in the State of Virginia, where he is to put them in the Gaol under the care of the Commanding Officer.

3. Both Parties are to proceed together as far as their respective Routs will admit, under the command of the Officer. But care must be had that the Prisoners or Guards do not mix on the march, for which purpose the Serjeant must march his party at a small distance in the Rear of the Officers.

4. The Prisoners must be marched in compact Bodies, & none of them permitted to Straggle; nor must the men of the Escort be permitted to mix with the Prisoners, but keep outside that body, and be careful that none of them sieze or handle the arms.

5. Should any of the Prisoners of War or Tories behave improperly you are to Hand-Cuff them. Should they Mutiny you must suppress it by gentle means or force.

6. The Prisoners of War are to be Victualled by Mr. David Franks, the English Agent, or Persons employed by him.

The Tories are to be Victualled in the same manner as the men under your command.

7. Should you be relieved on the Road you are to give these Instructions to the Officer that relieves you.

8. When the Serjeant Commanding the other party leaves you, you are to give him a Copy of these Instructions, Certified by you.

9. As soon as you and the Serjeant, who commands the other Party, have executed your Commissions you are to Return to Philadelphia with all convenient dispatch.

August 6th, 1777.

Major General Gates Commanding.

August 8th, 1777.

Major Genl. Marquis De la Fayette Comm^s.

August 12th, 1777.

The Captain Commanding Colonel White's 4th Georgia Regiment must immediately send the Persons concerned in the murder of a Soldier, of said Regiment, to Philadelphia, under a Guard of a Serjeant, a Corporal and eight men. The Prisoners to be Hand-Cuffed and brought to the Town Major. The Surgeon and all other witnesses to attend at the same time.

No non Commissioned Officer or Soldier must be permitted to come to this City. Should any necessaries be wanting for the Officers or men in Camp, they must be procured and sent there by the Quarter Master or Adjutant.

No non Commissioned Officer or Soldier must be permitted to go more than half a Mile from the Camp. Should any disobey this order, the Person or Persons offending must be confined and Tryed by a Court Martial.

Should any complaints be made by any of the Inhabitants against any Officer or Soldier, such Officer or Soldier may be certain of being confined and tried.

The Officer Commanding in Camp must be ready to answer for his conduct in dismissing some of the Prisoners concerned in the murder of the Soldier.

There must never be fewer than four Commissioned Officers with the men in Camp.

August 15th, 1777.

The oldest Subaltern Officer of the Continental Troops in the Barracks is to hold himself in readiness to conduct some Prisoners of War to the Enemies Lines near New York. The said Officer to be ready to march at a moment's notice.

August 16th, 1777.

Major Genl Armstrong Commanding.

One Subaltern, One Serjeant, One Corporal, One Drummer, and Thirty men of the Invalids to Escort the Body of the late Adjutant Hanson from Grum Street, in Race Street, near Mr. Pennington's Sugar house, at 5 o'clock this afternoon.

August 18th, 1777.

A Field Officer of one of the Regiments of the County Militia, Quartered in the Barracks, must wait on General Armstrong at 12 o'clock this day.

One Serjeant, one Corporal and Fifteen Men of the Invalids, to mount Guard at the Court House to-morrow morning.

Three Serjeants of the City Guards are to be reduced to-morrow.

August 20th, 1777.

The City Guard are to be reduced to Three Companies each consisting of one Captain, one Lieutenant, one Ensign, five Serjeants, eight Corporals, and eighty Privates, Capt Bradford's Company as youngest to be reduced and all the other Commission'd and non Commissioned, Serjeants and Corporals Exceeding the above number.

A Serjeant of the Invalids to attend every day at the Town Majors as Orderly.

One Corporal and four Men of the Invalids to mount Guard daily at the New Store House near the Barracks.

August, 22d, 1777.

A Subaltern Officer to repair immediately to the Bettering House Hospital to receive and conduct 150 Convalescents to the Hospital at Peel Hall, and there remain till releived.

August 24th, 1777.

All non Commissioned Officers and Soldiers belonging to his Excellencies Army that have straggled into this City are to be taken up and confined in the New Goal 'till collected, when they are to be marched to the Army.

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Colonel Kirkbride to President Wharton, 1777.

Bellvue, 24th Aug., '77. 2 o'clock, P. M.

Sir,

I this moment rec'd your Excelency's favour of yesterday, and note the Contents, I am Exceeding sorry to inform your Excellency that it's extreamly difficult to procure substitutes in this County, even for the extravegant sum of 60 dollars, which I have been forc'd to give for third Class, before I could get a man. Chiefly owing to the Example of the City, County of Phila & Chester.

The 3rd Class Consist only of 150 privates, under the command of Major Folwell, and the greatest part of those are substitutes. The whole is well provided with armes, and chiefly well accouter'd. Tents, I believe, will be the principal article wanting. I think it will be difficult to procure any Considerable No. of substitutes for this Class, and as near One month of their time is already pas'd the men will be discharged at different times, should more be added, and no officers to command those whose time will not be expired. The calling out the fourth Class would draw out some in their own turn, with the subs that might be added would perhaps make a small Battalion more. This I take the Liberty to offer for the councils

Consideration, but if they should think it best to add more subt^s to the 3rd Class nothing shall be wanting on my part to accomplish that end. On the Contrary, what ever Orders may be given shall be punctually obey'd. We are now proceeding upon the Collecting of the sub^s money of the 1st & 2nd Class, but we are very deficient in Magistrates and Constables that will do their duty. If any further remissnes shou'd appear in any of the Justices the Council shall be Immediately advis'd thereof. If I am to procure more substitutes I shall be under the necessity of Call'g upon your Excellency for more Cash before I can possibly Collect any from those for whome sub's is found, as I have as yet paid all the men their wages, with the number of arms so purchased, expends an amazing sum of money.

The Bearer hereof, Mr. Jno. Smick, will deliver this, he is a Trusty man, & if the Council can send up by him about two thousand pounds it may be safely done, and will be certainly want'd before money can otherwise be had.

I am with the greatest respect,

Your Excellencys most Obedient &

Very Hum^e Servt,

JO. KIRKBRIDE.

Directed.

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

℘ Mr. Jno. Smick.

Thomas Dorsey to Supreme Executive Council.

Gentlemen,

As the pay of the Militia of this State is to be govern'd as near as possible by the rules for regulating the pay of the Continental Army, and as its necessary the county paymasters, as well as myself, should have some fixed rule whereby to regulate ourselves, the Continental Troops and Militia differing so widely in circumstances, I beg leave to lay before your honors the inclosed resolves of Congress for regulating the paymaster Generals department, requesting your honors pointing out such articles as may be thought necessary to govern mine.

Remain Gentlemen,

Your Most obedient humble servant,

THOM. DORSEY.

Philadelphia, Aug. 25, 1777.

Directed.

To The Honorable Supreme Executive Council for the State of Pennsylvania.

General Potter to President Wharton, 1777.

Sir,

This will be presented to you by Mr. Jordon, a young Gentleman whose service in last Winter's Campaign, as a Lieutenant, were he distinguished himself on many occasions with Resolution & bravery becoming a Good Officer and a Gentleman.

Therefore, beg leave to Recommend him to your notice to have him appointed a Lieu^t in Captn Broadhead's Comp^y, in Colonel Becker's Battalion, and I make no doubt he will merit the appointment.

I am Sir Your

Mo^t Hubl^e Ser^t,

JAS. POTTER.

Philad^a, 26th Aug^t, 1777.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Esqre, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolutions of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, July, 26, 1777.*

Resolved, That the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania be requested to order all the leaden spouts in Philadelphia, to be taken down for the use of the laboratory.

Whereas the states of Pennsylvania and Deleware are threatened with an immediate invasion from a powerful army, who have already landed at the head of Chesapeake bay; and whereas, the principles of policy and self preservation require that all persons who may reasonably be suspected of aiding or abetting the cause of the enemy may be prevented from pursuing measures injurious to the general weal.

Resolved, That the executive authorities of the states of Pennsylvania and Delaware be requested to cause all persons within their respective states notoriously disaffected, forthwith to be apprehended, disarmed and secured till such time as the respective states think they may be released, without injury to the common cause.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, to cause a diligent search to be made in the houses of all the inhabitants of the city of Philadelphia who have not manifested their attachment to the American cause, for fire arms, swords and bayonets; that the owners of the arms so found be paid for, at an appraised value, and that they be delivered

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 278.

to such of the Militia of the state of Pennsylvania who are at present unarmed, and have been called into the field.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Secy.

Directed,

His Excellency, The President, and Supreme Executive Council —State of Pennsylvania.

Resolve of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, Aug. 26, 1777.

Resolved, That it be recommended to his excellency, the president & the hon^ble executive Council of the State of Pensylvania, to lend to the commander in chief two brass twelve pounders belonging to the said State.

Extract from the Minutes.*

CHA. THOMSON, Secy.

William Buchannan to Supreme Executive Council, 1777.

Philadelphia, 26th Aug^t, 1777.

To The Honourable,

The President and Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania:

Gentlemen,

I take the Liberty of inclosing you a Copy of a Resolve of Congress of the 10th June last, lest it may have escaped your Notice; Nor should I now call your Attention to it, had not many of my Assistant Commissaries, Purchasers of Live Stock, suggested to me that the Purchase of fat Cattle for the Supply of your State Navy points out the propriety of the Measure therein recommended.

I have the Hon^r to be,

Gent^m,

You mo. Ob^t & Very hble. serv^t

Wm BUCHANAN, C. G. of Purch^s.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI. p. 278.

Copy of the thirty sixth Article of the Resolves of Congress, passed no the 10th June, 1777, for supplying the Army with Provisions.

That all Persons employed to purchase for the United States, any Articles in the several Departments of the Commissary General of Purchases, Quarter Master, Director or Clothier General, or the Commissary General of Military Stores, shall previously apply to them, or the Principal Officers under them respectively, for Certificates of the several Prices by them allowed for such Articles, and shall not, on any Pretence whatsoever, exceed such Prices. And it is recommended to the several States to give their Purchasers, respectively similar Directions.

Anthony Butler to Supreme Executive Council, 1777.

Mr. Hale, who is a Deputy Waggon Master General, wants seven Waggons for the use of General Nash's Brigade. Owing to the death of many of their horses, and other Circumstances, as we shall not be able to supply him, I have referred him to the hon^ble^, the Executive Council.

I am, with Respect,

Your very hble. Ser^t^,

ANTHY. BUTLER.*

Directed.

Timothy Matlack, Esq.

Sup. Exec. Council to Justices, 1777.

In Council,

Philadelphia, August 27, 1777.

Gentlemen:

Application has been made in the most pressing terms for a number of waggons & horses to forward Artillery stores, &c., to General Washington, who, it is feared, may be in exceeding great want of them; as he has written for them to be sent with all possible expedition. The Council have therefore, directed and ordered that the Justices of the county of Chester do send to Philadelphia twenty-five waggons, with four horses each, as soon as they can by any means, be obtained. If they cannot be had very readily by other

* See page 277, Col. Rec., Vol. XI.

means, they must be impressed, which we hope will not be necessary, as their is plenty of forage for horses in the army, and if the drivers take the necessary care, they will be very little if any injured in the service required of them.

And Philad^a. C^o. 25 waggons.

Directed,

To the Justices of the counties of Philad^a. & Chester respectively.*

Thos. Mifflin to Sup. Exec. Council, 1777.

The Necessity which the Quarter Master Generals Department labours under for Want of Waggons obliges me to make this application to the hon^ble the Executive Council, and to Request they would order Forty Waggons down to Philadelphia with as much Despatch as can be used.

The Commissary of Military stores is in Want of twenty four Artillery Horses to replace others which have died in service, and to forward some Howitzs & artillery to his Excellency General Washington. Could these be procured with the Waggons it would greatly assist the service.

I am for General Mifflin

the hon^ble the Council's very hble servt,

ANTHY. BUTLER.

Philad^a, 27 August, 1777.

Directed.

To the Honble The Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolutions of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, 28 August, 1777.

The Committee to whom the Letter from General Sullivan, with the Papers inclosed, was referred, reported.

That the several Testimonies which have been published since the commencement of the present contest betwixt Great Britain and America, and the uniform Tenor of the Conduct and Conversation of a number of Persons of considerable wealth, who profess themselves to belong to the Society of People commonly called Quakers, render it certain and notorious that those Persons are, with much rancour and bitterness, disaffected to the American Cause.

That as these Persons will have it in their Power, so there is no Doubt it will be their Inclination to communicate Intelligence to the

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 279.

Enemy, and in various other ways to injure the Counsels and arms of America.

That when the Enemy, in the month of December, 1776, were bending their Progress towards the City of Philadelphia, a certain seditious Publication, addressed "To our Friends and Brethren in religious Profession, in these and the adjacent Provinces," signed "John Pemberton, in and on Behalf of the meeting of sufferings, held at Philadelphia, for Pennsylvania and New-Jersey, the 20th of the 12th month, 1776," was published, and, as your Committee is credibly informed, circulated amongst many members of the society called Quakers throughout the different states.

That as the seditious Paper aforesaid, originated in the City of Philadelphia, and as the Persons whose names are undermentioned, have uniformly manifested, by their general conduct and conversation, a Disposition highly inimical to the Cause of America, therefore

Resolved,

That it be earnestly recommended to the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania forthwith to apprehend and secure the Persons of Joshua Fisher, Abel James, James Pemberton, Henry Drinker, Israel Pemberton, John Pemberton, John James, Samuel Pleasants, Thomas Wharton, Senr, Thomas Fisher, son of Joshua, and Samuel Fisher, son of Joshua, together with all such Papers in their Possession as may be of a political nature.

And Whereas, there is strong reason to apprehend that these Persons maintain a Correspondence and Connection highly prejudicial to the public safety, not only in this state, but in the respective states of America.

Resolved,

That it be recommended to the Executive Powers of the respective States, forthwith to apprehend and secure all Persons, as well among the People called Quakers, as others, who have in their general Conduct and Conversation, widened a Disposition inimical to the Cause of America; and that the Persons so seized be confined in such Places and treated in such manner as shall be consistent with their respective Characters and the security of their Persons.

That the records and Papers of the meetings of Sufferings in the respective states be forthwith secured and carefully examined, and that such Parts of them as may be of a political nature, be forthwith transmitted to Congress.

The said report being read, and the several Paragraphs considered and debated, and the Question put thereon severally, the same was agreed to.

Ordered,

That the Board of War remove, under Guard, to a Place of security, out of the state of Pennsylvania, the Hon'ble John Penn,

Esqr., and Benjamin Chew, Esqr., and that they give orders for having them safely secured and entertained agreeable to their rank and station in Life.

By order of Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, Presid^t.*

Sup. Exec. Council to Lieutenants, 1777.

Philadelphia, 27th Aug^t, 1777.

Sir,

General Howe having landed an army in Maryland, less than seventy miles from this city, & the event thereof being uncertain & perhaps at some distance, it is proper to inform you, that, before long it may be necessary to draw out more of the militia of this State, to replace those who are now in the field, but whose term of two months is passing. The City, Philadelphia, Lancaster & Bucks Counties have 3d classes now embodied, & in service. It is but equal to make like calls on other Counties. Of course it is highly probable that Council will be under a necessity of ordering a [second] Class of the Militia of your County to be drawn out, and perhaps a [third]. This being in view, it is proper, that you, & your deputies, should be acquainted with it, & that you make every provision, & take every previous step for their march. The unarmed state in which too many of the Battalions come out, is very distressing. What arms are to be had here, will be readily furnished, but the Council of Safety delivered out so liberally & so long, that it will be difficult to arm numbers of the men, who have already been sent down. Your most serious attention and diligent endeavours to provide arms are therefore essentially necessary. In this City, the Officers of the Militia, with the Lieut. are now actually putting in force the power given to disarm the Tories, by going to and searching the houses of the suspected inhabitants, who neglect or refuse to take the oath or affirmation of Allegiance to this State, & of abjuration of the King of Great Britain. As men who are skilled in the use of rifles, may be picked out of the companies, send down all the good rifles you can meet with. Collections of Blankets have been made thro' the City more than once, & some Counties have seized them. I recommend this measure to you, because the fall of the year, approaches, & the Militia must have Blankets.

You will please to observe, that I now call out no Militia, I only

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 283.

desire you to prepare for the embodying of Militia, in case of need; and this I tell you is very likely.

I am

Sir,

Your most obedt Servt.

Directed,

To the Lieutenants of the Counties.

SUP. EXEC. COUNCIL, TO DEP. Q. MR. GENL. 1777.

In Council, Philadelphia August 28, 1777.

Sir,

The quarter master general assured Council some time since, that the Militia of this State when called into service should be supplied with every article they stood in need of out of the General store, I therefore request you will supply either of the Generals of this State with such necessaries as they may order to be taken up for the use aforesaid.

I am Sir,

Your very

humble Servant

T. W. jr.

Directed,

To Mr. Antv Butler, Deputy Qr. Mr. Genl.

SUP. EXEC. COUNCIL, TO COL. WM. BRADFORD &c., 1777.

To be communicated to the other Colonels of the City Militia of Foot.

Philadelphia, 28th of Augt, 1777

Sir,

Council have called upon the Lieutenant of the city of Philadelphia and the townships and District annexed, & his deputies, to execute the power given to them by the late Act of Assembly, obliging the male Inhabitants of this State to give assurance of Allegiance to the same, of disarming all the Inhabitants of said City, Townships, & Districts, who by refusing or neglecting to take & subscribe the oath

or affirmation, in & by said act of assembly prescribed, have made themselves liable to such disgrace.

The multiplied business of the Lieuts., & the deputy Lts., the propriety of proceeding with address & vigor, & also, at once; & the extent of the undertaking render it necessary, that the Colonels of the several corps of foot Militia in the city, Townships & Districts annexed act in this business, & distribute to each Captain the share to be assigned him.

Tho' the directions to the Lieut., & his deputies are as large, as the Act of Assembly, & include all recusants of the Test, yet I doubt not, the Colonels will make proper distinctions. To their prudence, & activity, the execution of this measure must be referred. It is immediately designed to procure weapons for the Militia, who have marched; but it is in every respect important. To say any thing further would be needless.

I am, &c.

Directed.

To Col. Wm. Bradford,

Sup. Exec. Council, to Maj. Gen. Armstrong, 1777.

Philadelphia, August 28th, 1777.

Sir,

The arms which are delivered into the hands of the lieutenants of this city by the militia who are returned from Billingsport are exceedingly out of repair, owing in many instances to the shameful neglect & abuse of the persons in whose hands they have been. The Council direct me to request that you will please to issue effectual orders to prevent the like abuses in future, and you will see the necessity of it on the first mention of this dangerous practice.

Directed

To Major Gen. Armstrong.

R. Macalester to President of Council, 1777.

Hanover Town, Aug. 28th, 1777.

Sir,

I had the Honour of Receving your letter of the 21st Inst., I had the same hoops of the Example of the Neighbourin Counties spiriting up those, so much Relaxed in our County & made the greatest use of it wth them, & believe it at length had some Effect. Your Hon^r^ is pleased to say you are of the mind it's much owing to want of

spirit and activety in those who are intrusted wth the management of those affairs, or the influence of a few Leading men, or both, y^r^ also pleased to tell me the wheels of Government are in motion in allmost every County of this State as to the latter; I would to God it wass not almost but altogether the case, and as to the former charge Levelled against me I Do Denie to be the case, and was Council better informed of the temper, of the more than one half of this County and the truble I have had & the abuse Rec'd they w^d^ think otherwise. Not many days past 200 of the Germans Assembled not more than a mile from this place, its said to bind themselves to each other that they w^d^ not muster nor go in the Militia any way, nor suffer their effects to be sold to pay any fines, and to stand by other at the Risque of their lives, to kill every man who w^d^ Distress them, they say themselves there is upwards of 500 in this combination, but have larned the writings wass not perfited, it's also said they intended to come to my house & either kill me or beet me so that I should not truble them any more, Mr Slagle was also threatened, Som Came in town, but I happened to be attending York town Batalion that day so they missed me, and Returned; these are facts and in the midest of all these Dificualties and trubles with my Neighbors amongst whom I've lived upwards of 20 years in peace & good order.

Because I cant turn the harts of those people immediately which none but God that made them can do, (as appears to be the case,) I find myself Reflected on for the want of what those people say I have too much of; had I as useall, som of the leading men or people of Influence w^h^ me, perhaps it might be better, its to the revarce.

I was early Imbarked in this onhapey Dispute, and I tuck it up from princable, and my conduct I beleve will apear as firm and as onshaken as maney in the State, and as well attatched to the Defence of it, & the States in generall, nor w^d^ any man be better Pleased to see the Due administration of Justice in this State, nor hath mancy a Greater need to see it in full force than myself; as to the test you, suspect me from what I said respecting it that I hadent tuck it, and perhaps hindered the progress of it w^h^ others, I have long taken it in Princable I ashure y^r^ Hon^r^ as also laterly in form. But from my Knoledge of the Germans in General, who is Numerous in this County and amongst whom I Live, and hearing there Sentiments Respecting those Matters, the arguments they made use of Respecting there being Naturalized there taking Allegance to the King, I was sorry to see the test wth the abjuration in the begining of it Coming out amongst them at that time, & it hath turned out just as I Expected Respecting it, as the world cant make them beleve they are clear of thire oath to the King, and they say to be obleged to Renounce their oath, & perhaps in a short time to be obleged to swear to the King, is a matter seeming imposable for them to git over (altho' weak and simple as it is) many Arguments is made use of wth them but to little porpose; som Even Refuse taking it when it

becomes Necessary for the conveying Land, others take it rather than loose a good bargin.

I Pledge my honour that I have used all my Influence wth them to take it, Qualifies or gits it don, to all who I can prevail on, but nothing yet happened that gives so much Disatisfaction or raises such Jelesies in the brests of the Ignorant, as to be called on to take this oath, a simple oath of alegance w^d^ have gone down generally wth them, this made me call it this long tailed oath, and it hath answered the purpose I expected wth those people, Altho' they are not able to Denie that som Kind of an oath is Necessary to be taken by all who w^d^ Protect the States.

However there is gentlemen asedious in calling it even Persiention, and that those who had taken alegance to the King should not take any test till they Know who is Master, in this citiation we are at Present. However, I dont Dispair, inasmuch as Council seems to hold me as suspected Person, and not spirited nor active. I should be greatly obliged by y^r^ appointing a person who may be abeler to carry the Milita Law into Execution, as the full Execution of it w^d^ give me the greatest satisfaction Possible, and hope it may be bro^t^ about speedily; the appointment will by no means disoblige me but give me great Pleasure.

From the disposition of the People & the ill success I had amongst them, which was Very Disagreeable to me, had Maney a time almost fully detirmined Resining in form, Nothing prevented it but that I w^d^ not Gratify them & that it was all they Desired, & would a'said I then was convinced of my Erors, & it was thot by my Friend & myself it w^d^ Do Grate Harm.

5 Companies is Marched, we are striving hard to march the other three, which is a company from each Batalion; I hope a few days will send the last off, meening the first class; the Reason of my not answering the letters of the 28th & 31 of July, was this, that I wanted to git something Don if possable before I w^d^ write, I had wrote Council the ill temperment of more than half of the County I believe before, I tho^t^ as soon as I had som good ac^t^ should write, there is several places in those parts that Not any will Except of Commissions, by election nor appointment at aney Rate, so Cant git ofesers to do aney thing, I clased them nevertheless, and Drue part out of them; I adhered strictly to the opinion of Council in y^r^ Letter of 28th July Respecting the large Prices given for substitutes; in Cumberland M^r^. Gregory give 100 to 120 Dolers, I give not more than 40, I am obliged, or at least the subs, who have not got don Hiering, to give the same or not git a man; should be glad of orders in this Matter, there is one thing that doth the gratest Mischief Possible and sowers the mind of those who have been forward, and they do say if not Remedied will not lift a gun for no man, that is the last years fines from the nonassosiators, the Comistionrs is slack in this, the Colectors also, or at least some of them, say they will not lift it for fear of thire lives, Constables we have none that will act, my

hand is very weak and nothing to support me; wass those fines lifted they say, who have been forward, they w^d assist me to carrey matters into Execution but they rather believe it cant be don, so conclude the Militia Law will also fail; I should be Extremely Glad those matters was settled wth the Nonasosiators, the hands of the ofesers w^d soon be strengthened and those Raskils brot to know better; if something is not done in this, the greatest part of those who was well afected will, and even now Refuse aney order, in the Meantime shall do Every thing in my power to foreward Matters until Council writes me; should any more be called suddently from those Parts it will be Necessary to send more Cash, as what I had is nearly out; som Companies we have been obliged to hier every man except 5 or 6, in the last money I Received there is a Quantity of New York Money which we cant make use of; we shant be able to lift those large fines, except the other is first lifted from the Nonasosiators, and those who wass well afected then will assist, as those people make no stop in swearing they will take lives before it is lifted, (or one shilling of it,) I shael conclude by taking the liberty of subscribing myself,

Y^r Hon^s

Most ob^t

Hum^le Servt

R. M'CALESTER.*

NB. Shall in a short time send a return of the offesers who will serve, and if Posable will weat on Council in person to give an ac^t of my proceedings, which am not ashamed of nor afraid to ans^r to.

Directed,

To The Honorable Thomas Wharton, Esqr., President of the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO GEN'L ARMSTRONG, 1777.

Philadelphia, 28th August, 1777.

Sir,

You have seen that the Honourable Assembly of this State has ordered that a Gill of Rum or Whisky be dayly distributed to each man in the Militia, going out into the field, & that the President & Council provide the same. Hitherto this gratuity of the Legislature has been furnished, but not to any valuable purpose, as far as appears. Many have, instead of thanks, rendered grumbling and clamour.

But Council apprehend that upon the junction of the Militia under your Command, with the Continental army, some difficulties may arise from another Quarter. Perhaps General Washington would forsee inconvenience in distributing strong liquors, of which

* See page 519.

the people in general are fond, to one part of his army whilst another is neglected; soldiers, it is supposed are tollerably easy whilst every thing is dealt alike to all, but are disgusted by partiality.

I desire you to think of this subject, & let me know whether the delivery of the Gill of spirits had not better be discontinued as to Militia who act in conjunction with the Continental army, & an equivalent be paid to each man in money on his return.

Your reply to this will oblige,

Sir,

your most obed^t serv^t,

Directed,

To General Armstrong.

Colonel Galbraith to President Wharton, 1777.

May it please your Excellencie,

Sir, your favour of the 20th Ins^t came to hand on Saturday night last, desireing me to dismiss the second & third classes of the Lancaster Militia—at the time I called these Classes there was but five Battalions formed properly, besides that of the borrow, & the whole of the Clases (called) are marched from four Battalions, & at Chester, the others I have detained here to Guard the Prisoners & Stores where directed—should it still be your Excellencies pleasure that they should be dismissed, I would request that a line from the Secr^y to Col. Watson & Lowry at Chester, might be sufficient.

I'm in haste,

your Excellencies most obed^t serv^t,

BARTREM GALBRAITH,
Lieu^t Lanc^r County.

Directed,

To His Excellencie Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

28th August, 1777.

The Circular Letter is filled with its Class—Postscript is added thus:

Y^r L^r of the Ins^t is received. We were desirous to dismiss some of y^r Militia, & in the Letter of the 2nd Ins^t said so, but if you carefully read the last sentence you will find it recalled, on the news of Genl Howes arrival in Chesapeak. The above is a Circular letter. You may see that further calls of Militia May be necessary. Inclosed are some hints about levying the substitution money—a subject of the first importance.*

* This paragraph is written on the back of Col. G's. letter, and appears to be draught of answer of Pres't. to it.

Warrant Lieutenants of City and County, 1777.

In Council.

Philadelphia, [Aug.] 28th, 1777.

In conformity with a resolve of Congress of yesterday, founded in evident necessity & sound policy, & agreeable to the directions of an Act of Assembly intituled an Act to oblige the male inhabitants of this State to give assurance of Allegiance to the same & for other purposes therein mentioned.

Resolved & ordered that the Lieutenants & the deputy Lieu^ts^ of the City of Philadelphia, & annexed Townships & Districts, do appoint & employ one or more proper persons, aided, if need be, by a Constable, in the limitts & district of each Captain of a Company of the Infantry of said City, & the said Townships & districts annexed, to enter, in the day time, the dwellings, out-houses, & other inclosures of every inhabitant of said city, Townships & District annexed, who hath refused or neglected, & who yet refuse & neglect, to take & subscribe the oath or affirmation of allegiance, in & by the said Act of Assembly, directed and enjoined to be taken & subscribed by every male inhabitant of this Commonwealth, above the age of eighteen years, & there to make Dilligent search for Musquetts, Carbines, fusees, rifles, & other fire arms, & for swords & Bayonetts, & the same to seize, secure, & deliver to said Lieu^t^ & his Deputies, or any of them, and it is ordered that if any of said inhabitants shall oppose said search, or conceal any fire-arms, or other weapons afore-mentioned, to apprehend such persons, & take them before one of the Justices of the peace, to be dealt with according to law, and further, the said Lieu^t^ & his Deputies, are to have all such arms so taken carefully appraised, in order that payment & satisfaction for the same may be made to the rightful owner.*

Gen'l Armstrong to President Wharton, 1777.

Chester, 29th August, 1777.

Dear Sir,

Gladly wou'd I have wrote sooner to council had not the only subject to be touched with propriety been that of a Chaos, a situation more easy to conceive than describe, however, I have got at least eighteen hundred men sent forward. Some 35 or 40 who went from Billingsport & passed on the River by night, are unarmed, but Coll. Coates has promised to send them to Willmington where the unarmed are to be left to receive them. In concert with Genl Potter I have formed a Rifle Reg^t^, and put a Coll. Dunlap at the head

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 279.

of it, a prudent man, and not unacquainted with the business of a Partizan. I hope this step will not be disagreeable to Council, as from it we hope to derive an earlier & more frequent service than can well be expected from the Battalions. This Batt^n marches to morrow morning from Hooke. This morning Genl Potter sets out to command the first Brigade. One hundred & sixty from Billingsport to pass this day to Willmington, whom with the Rifle Batt^n of 300 privates are exclusive of the number mentioned above.

I ordered Coll. Bull to furnish Council with a general return & a copy to the Board of War, and shall send another as soon after our junction at Camp as possible. The want of arms being our great complaint, at a crisis like this too affecting fully to express, and having attempted every other method. Suppose a junto of spirited Gentlemen in Town were to make a sudden effort from House to House dividing themselves thro' the different wards, the effect of their persuasion might be of great service to the publick & who can be at a loss for elocution on an occasion like this. Major Henry has done nobly in going to French Creek, but if the things promised are not pushed forward 'tis to no effect. I am now sending arms back to Philada. for repairs & beg the Gunsmiths may be daily attended to. I send Major Cox to wait on Council with this letter, do what he can and bring me an account to morrow of the prospect of arms, &c.

I have the honor to be your Excellencys
Most Obed't humbl Serv't,
JOHN ARMSTRONG.

P. S.—Your favour of yesterday is just come to hand, and your observations on the effects of the assemblys gratuity in giving liquors but too justly founded in fact—for an instance of which together with the best thoughts I can suddenly collect, I must beg leave to refer you to Major Cox, being obliged to go down to Hooke with Genl Potter who is impatient to get off, and shall hereafter if council think proper write on that point at greater length.

J. A.

Directed.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton.

Fav'd by
Major Cox.

Mons. De Coudray on Defence Delaware River, 1777.

Memoir upon the defence of the two passages of the river, viz., Billingsport and fort Island.

The soundings made yesterday by the navy board having confirmed those which I made last week with Mr Donaldson, who have sunk the chevaux de frise, it is demonstrated in the most incontestible manner that Fort Mifflin, instead of having to act against three frigates only, as his Excellency General Washington had been assured, and as this General has informed the congress in the letter in which he discusses the preference that ought to be given to one of these forts; it is incontestible, I say, that as fort Mifflin, being exposed to the fire of about 15 frigates, is thereby in a situation of being demolished in a few hours, if it be attacked in the condition in which it is at present; viz., surrounded by a single palissade, or with a wall without a terrass, which can only defend it against a coup de main, and cannot by any means resist the cannon.

It is not less evident that the ground being almost upon a level with the water; it is only with vast expences and a considerable time that by a rampart, and other convenient alterations, this fort can be put in a situation of resisting so many vessels, the effect of which would be so much the more dangerous to it, as being upon a level with the river, and on its bank, the balls which could not arrive on account of the distance of some frigates, would get there by rebounding.

I join, however, to this memorial two projects suggested upon this head by Augustus le Brun, one of the Engineers who have accompanied me from France, these projects suppose that for reasons which particularly regard the State of Pennsylvania, or the plan of his excellency General Washington for the defense of the Delaware, it would be absolutely necessary to put this fort in a condition of sustaining some time the attacks of the enemy.

That of these projects, which is the plainer and affords only a very imperfect defense, could not be executed without employing the earth brought from the dikes which surrounds the Isle and putting it under water; this would render it a very unwholesome place of abode.

The second project, which affords a very complete and well conceived defense, requires that beside this earth more perhaps should be fetched from the other side of the river.

But the execution of even the plainest of these projects, could only be accomplished for the next campaign; unless means which would be very expensive to this country were employed.

This, however, would not disperse, (as it is certainly necessary in the present State of the fort) from hindering the ennemy, by chevaux de frise, to place themselves in the two chenals where the

soundings lately performed, shew that they can place so many frigates.

But to support these chevaux de frise it would be necessary to have on the opposite bank a battery of 12 or 15 pieces at least, of eighteen or twenty four pounders on account of the great distance, to which they should fire; and that their battery might not be taken, it should be fortified on the land side, or in other words, a new fort should be constructed, which would also be attended with a great expence in Artillery, ammunition and construction, although the ground I have examined whith the Deputies is very favourable.

If we count the expence of this fort which should built quite new; that of red bank being by far too much above the position of the chevaux de frise; and that of Bush Island being only a child's play thing; if to this expence be added that of the chevaux de frise, which are to be sunk either in the channel where there are yet none or in that channel where there are some already, but which are separated 40 feet the one from another; if in short we add to all those expences these of the most necessary alterations to be made in fort Mifflin, it will appear evident, as I have declared in the first memorial which I laid before the Congress in the beginning of June,* when they consulted me on this head, that there can be no thoughts of defending this passage of the river, unless, as I have forementioned some reasons regarding particularly the State of Pennsylvania, or the future operations of the army, should absolutely require to enable this fort to resist for some time the attacks of the ennemy.

If these reasons do not exist, it is evident that we must confine ourselves to the defense of that passage alone of Billingsport, where the river is more than two thirds narrower than at fort Mifflin; where the ennemy can present no more than three frigates at a time; where the frigates can do very little harm to the battery which protects the chevaux de frise, because this battery, being very high, is safe from the rebounding of the balls and commands the frigates; where the Galleys and fire ships are more capable of acting whith more profit and facility than at fort Mifflin; and where in short the work is far advanced, and proportioned to the small quantity of artillery, which is at present in a state of serving.

If the Government intend to unite all their efforts in finishing this fort, I would propose to hire instead of militia men, workmen by the day, which after an exact calculation of all expences, will cost incomparably less, I believe, will work a great deal more, give far less trouble to those who conduct the works, and not consume such an immense quantity of tools of all kinds.

DU COUDRAY.

Philadelphia, 29 Aug., 1777.

* See page 360.

SUP. EXEC. COUNCIL TO COMMITTEE FOR DRIVING OFF STOCK, 1777.

Gentlemen,

As the enemy are landed at Elk river, and undoubtedly are aiming for this city, I have it in charge from the Council, to remind you of the necessity of a careful attention to the duty of removing the cattle, whenever the approach of the enemy may make it necessary. If any change of circumstance should have rendered a further appointment to your assistance necessary, upon your recommendation of a number of proper persons, the Council will immediately appoint them.

I am with great respect,

Your humble servant.

Philada., Augt 29, 1777.

Directed,

To Wm. Carson, Dean Timmons, Nathl Donnell & And^w Carson.

To Edward Few, Richd Dennis, James Whitters, Henry Maay, Saml Penrose, George Young and Jacob Whitman.

To Philip Price, Adam Guyer & Joshua Ash, Junr,

JO. KIRKBRIDE TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Bellvue, 10 o'clock Wednesday Even'g.

Sir,

I have this moment had the Honor of rece'g (by Express) your Excellency's favour of this morning, and must Confess myself exceedingly surpris'd at the Extraordinary procedure Complain'd of against some of my sub Lieu^ts—which they are who have acted such an Inconsistent part, I am not as yet able to say, but I can assure your Excellency, it has been Intirely Contrary to my Express order —or the lest—privity on my part.

Your Excelency & the Hon'ble Counsil may be asur'd I will Immediately take every proper step to discover the Blameable person or persons, and will cause him or them as soon as possible, to appear before the Counsil to answer the premises.

I have the Hon^r to be your

Excellency's most respectfull & obedi't

Hum'l Serv't,

JO. KIRKBRIDE.

Directed,

To His Excelency Thomas Wharton, Esqr, Philadelphia.

☞ Express.

Sup. Exec. Council to Gen. Armstrong, 1777.

Philadelphia, 30th August, 1777.

Sir,

I recd your favour of yesterday by Major Cox, & I wait your further opinion concerning the Spirituous Liquors. Meanwhile Mr. Crispin will be directed to provide for the distribution of it in extraordinary cases as you advise.

Council expect the arms from Providence & French Creek are on the Road to Town. The repair of those here shall be forwarded, and they sent off to you as quickly as possible. It is with regret we find that those put into the hands of the Militia, lately stationed at Billingsport, have been returned in very damaged Condition, a circumstance distressing at any time, but especialy at present. If the posts on the River are nessarily weakened, on giving me a hint of it, they may be reinforced from hence.

You will observe that the Classes from Lancaster have come down very thinly. It is said that the Militia of some parts of that County have not been arranged & Classed, but Coll. Galbreath stops all the rest there, subject to your orders, and we have directed the like concerning the further Companies expected from beyond Susquehanna, & the second Class from Northampton. You will consider all these as under your disposition, recollecting the need of stronger guards at this time than usual, over the prisoners now removed further into the Country. You must perceive the weakness of some Classes last called out, Especialy the 3d of Bucks. This is owing to remisness in levying the substitution money, partly thro' the ignorance & feebleness of those upon whom the duty lies, & partly the interposition of Lawyers, who are giving ungrounded & litigious advice to delinquents. Hence you find a Draught calculated for near 5000 men, fall much short of that number.

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that Colonel Irvine, an officer of great merit, has accepted of the Commission of Brigr. Genl. He is going to join the Army & receive your orders. Council saw the propriety of giving you further assistance, & trust they have done it effectually by this nomination.

Your Battalion of Riflemen under Colonel Dualap, has the high approbation of Council. I am persuaded that such a Corps may be very useful. I doubt not that your zeal & patriotism will dispose you to promote the good of the service continually.

We understand that you are desirous of the assistance of the Militia Troop of Light Horse of this City. From a variety of incidents, & particularly the removal of many inhabitants, this Corps is become very thin; Besides nearly one half of those who are on the spot are Preengaged by Congress to escort Messrs. Penn & Chew to a distant station, and it seems expedient to leave the small residue here to execute such, & other errands of Congress, which require

persons of trust & politeness. These considerations induce Council to suspend the march of the Troop till they hear farther from you.

I am
Sir, with great regard,
Your most obed. Servt.

Directed,
To Major Genl. Armstrong.

H. De Haven to Pres. Wharton, 1777.

French Creek, Augt 30, 1777.

Honble Sir,

My Father having left this place this morning before the arrival of your Express, I have informed Mr. Rittenhouse of the Contents of your Order of Yesterday, he say it shall be complied with on Monday morning, that he cannot procure them sooner as there was a load sent down yesterday morning; I will sett off this afternoon to Mr. Bakers to forward, if possible, the Arms in his possession.

from your Humble servt.
H. DE HAVEN.

Directed,
To the Honble. Thos. Wharton, Esqr., Prest., &c., to the state of Pennsylva.

The Petition of Stephen Joseph Rouget, 1777.

August 30, 1777.

To his Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr., Governor of the State of Pensilvania, &c., &c., &c.

The humble Petitioner desiring to obtain a War commission for his Brigantine, the James of the Boarden of eighty tons, mounting Ten carriages guns of four pounders & eigtheen swevels, navigated by eighty men, now Laying in this River, Commanded by your petitioner, Begs your excellency to grant him the same, having sufficient security.*

& Will Ever Pray,
STEPHn. JOSHh ROUGET.

Martin Jugiez, Security.

* Granted.—See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 282.

Board of War to Pres. Wharton, 1777.

War Office, Augt 30th, 1777.

Sir,

There is a large quantity of Flour spoiling for Want of baking. It lies at the Valley Forge. I am directed to request of you that you, with the Council, will be pleased to order Furloughs to be given to six Bakers out of the Militia, for the Purpose of baking the Flour into hard Biscuit. Col. Dewees will receive your order & endeavour to find out the Bakers.

I have the Honour to be

Your very obed. Servt.

RICHARD PETERS, Secy.

Directed,

On Public Service, His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Jr. Esqr., Presid^t. of the Supreme Executive Council, Pennsylvania.

General Potter to President Wharton, 1777.

Head Quarters, Wilmington, Sep'r 1, 1777.

Sir,

I have this day, by order of his Excellency, the Genl, ordered all the militia that are at Lancaster, to this place.

One reason why the militia of our State coming so Ill armed is, they are afraid that if they lose their arms they will not be paid for them; and as a proof of their fears, they give an Instance, the arms they lost with the loss of Fort Washington, for which they have as yet never been paid or received any satisfaction. Therefore, if the Council would be pleased to issue orders to their County Lieutenants to appraise the people's muskets, and assure them that if they are lost in actual service, or by unavoidable accidents, they shall be paid for them, I doubt not in the least but they would come a vast deal better armed; for I am convinced there are great numbers of arms in the Country, which they will not bring into the field with them, uuless they have some such security for them.

There are daily, men coming into this place unarmed. I most earnestly request the favour of you to hasten arms & accoutrements to this place as soon as possible.

Bullets & screws are still wanting, although I gave positive orders to Mr. Tiler to send no Rifles without those articles.

His Excellency applied to me this morning to get some Battalions of the Militia of our State to join the Continental Brigades of our

* See page 571.

State. He says the militia are too numerous to be in two Brigades, & I confess they will be unwieldy if they are kept in two; however that of joining them to the Continental I think must be by their own consent.

Enclosed you have a report of our militia.*

I have the honor to be

Your Excellency's most Hum^l Servt,

JAS. POTTER.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President of Pennsylvania, Philad^a.

GEN. POTTER TO COMMANDING OFFICER AT LANCASTER, 1777.

Wilmington, Sept^r, 1st, 1777.

Sir,

I have it in Command from his Excellency General Washington, to order all the militia of the Different Classes, which are now ordered out in Lancaster County, to march Immediately to Head Quarters, which at present is at this place. Therefore, I require you will without delay pay strict obedience to these orders, & march all the troops under your command, & those Classes under marching orders in your County, to march forthwith.

I am Sir,

Your Humble Serv't.

JAS. POTTER, B. G.

P. S. None of the Troops are to be stoped after this, but all march on to head Quarters as they come in. No furlows to be given on any pretence whatever.

A Copy.

Directed,

To the Commanding Officer of the Militia, In the Burrough of Lancaster.

On publick Service.

* Not found.

General Armstrong to President Wharton, 1777.

Head Quarters, Chester, Septr 1st, 1777.

Sir,

By Lieu^t Col^n Clark I have received the Resolves of the Council respecting the Collecting of Blankets, an Article at present much wanted by the Militia of this State, and very proper to be Collected in this County, but I beg to be excused from the Service as it is Impracticable for me to go into it at present, being under the necessity of following the Troops to Morrow Morning, and am unacquainted with the People of the County. I would therefore beg Leave to recommend the Council to appoint some Gentlemen in the Civil Department to make the Purchases. Should there be a necessity to Destrain, I would then order as many men as might be necessary to support them. The Blankets when collected should be Deposited in a Publick Store, and divided among the different Battalions in proportion their wants, as the Compleating any one Battalion while others were deficient, might create uneasiness. With Regard to Liquors for the Militia, I am of opinion, all Things Consider'd, that a Quantity should be provided, to be delivered out Occasionally; for as the Continental Troops will be allowed Rum when on Fatigue & in bad weather, should the Militia be without it, might occation Disturbances, I shall however Speak to General Washington on the Subject, and endeavour to have the Militia supplied equally with the Continental Troops, but for fear of Scarcity think it best to have a Quantity laid in.

As I am Anxious to put the Brigades on as respectable a footing as possible, & to give them every additional strength that lays in my Power, I Request to be informed what Number of the Militia of York & Lancaster Countys have been detained for Guards, and to what part of the State the prisoners and Stores are removed, as without such Information I shall be quite at a loss to know what proportion of them I may with propriety order down, or Indeed, whether any of them can be spared. The City Troop of Light Horse being at present necessarily detained, I cannot Expect them to Join me Immediately, but for various reasons, some of which I am persuaded Council would approve of, I could wish that as soon as the Nature of the Service they are now Engaged in will Admitt, that they be sent down to Camp, and as I am apprehensive that should they be totally Exempted from Military Service, they may be disgusted, as I am convinced their highest ambition is to act in the Field. Col^n Bull goes off this morning to Billingsport and Fort Island to Examin what Militia remain there and in that Neighbourhood, and the time they have to serve, and have directed him to Report to the Council, but there is no doubt but that an additional Number for Labour will be Necessary.

I have had the pleasure of seeing General Irwin, and think his appointment will do honour to the judgement of Council, & Signal Service to the State.

I am Sir, with perfect respect,

Your Excellency's

Most humb^l Servt,

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Number in the forts on the Delaware, reported by Col. Bull, 5th Sep'r, 1777.

At Billingsport.—30 Contin^l Artillery.
50 City Militia—have 8 days to serve.
50 Labour^s & Carpen^rs—mostly the latter.

Fort Mifflin.—30 Contin^l Artillery.
15 Col. Moore's Militia & 15 men.

Red Bank.—A few labourers.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Junr, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Bartrem Galbraith to President Wharton, 1777.

Lancaster, 2nd September, 1777.

May it please your Excellencie,

Sir, In my absence from this place there came a letter from Brigad^r General Potter, directed to the Commanding officer of the Militia in Lancaster, a Copy of which you have inclosed, it came into the hands of Mr. Christopher Crawford, one of the Sub Lieuten^ts of this County, who looked upon it his duty to give marching orders to the troops that had been stopped here in Consequence of your letter of the 23^d ult^o, althe' non had march'd, except one Companie from York County, before my arrival, the remainder I stopp'd, looking upon it my duty to abide only by your Excellencies directions whilst here.

I would be glad to know whether I should pay a regard to such orders from the Gen^ls hereafter or not, if not, I hope that your Excellencie will acquaint them in what line they are to call, or let me know whither I'm to pay a reguard to there orders, with yours, least they might think it was through contempt my not conforming thereto. Just before I sat down to write rec'd yours of the 27th, which I shall Comply with as far as possible. There are about 70 men here

from Cumberland County who are uneasy to Joyn their Battalion at Camp, they rec'd no money before they left home, & knows not their paymaster which occations them to Complain:

The Hessian Prisoners are sent to Lebanon, it takes 3 Companies to guard them from the remoteness of their Quarters, & there are ab^t thirty of this County Militia here from the different Class's, besides some of the borough as Guards, which is all that's here. I hope for an answer to this by the Express.

I am your Excellencies

Most obed^t humble Servt,

BARTREM GALBRAITH,

Lieuten^t for Lancaster County.

N. B. Money will be wanting much soon.

On public service.

Directed,

To His Excellencie, Thomas Wharton, Esqr, Pres^t of the State of Pensylv^a, Philad^a.

Vice President Bryan to President of Congress, 1777.

In Council, 2^d September, 1777.

Sir,

In consequence of the recommendations of Congress & their own persuasion of the propriety & necessity of the measure, Council have taken up several persons inimically disposed towards the Amer. States. Few of the Quakers among these are persons willing to make any promise of any kind; they are therefore, mostly in confinement, in the Masons Lodge. As the number of those who are of this mind may exceed 20 it is proper to consider immediately of their disposal. On this head the advice of Congress is desired, & particularly whether Augusta & Winchester in Virginia, would not be suitable places wherein to secure these persons. And also, what may be the best course to be taken with the rest? The whole, now arresting, will not exceed forty, but it is extended beyond that number.

G. B., Ve Pres^t.

Colonel Bradford to President Wharton, 1777.

Sir,

The Rev'd Mr. Combs and Mr. Joseph Fox is added to the List I left with you, being just committed, they refusing to sign a Parole.

Your H^ble^ Servt,

WM. BRADFORD.*

Sept. 2^d^, 1777.

Directed,

To His Excell^y^, Thos Wharton, jun^r^.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, 3 September, 1777.

Resolved,

That it be earnestly recommended to the several States to take effectual measures for importing or otherwise procuring, during the ensuing Winter, such supplies of Arms, Tents and other military Stores, Blankets, Clothing, Medicines and other necessary articles for their respective Militia as may be wanted for the next Campaign; and that they report to Congress the Species and Quantity of military Stores manufactured in their respective States.

Copy from the Journals.

WILLIAM CH. HOUSTON, D. Sec'ry.

Archibald McClean to Vice-President Bryan, 1777.

York, Septr 3^d^, 1777.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 21st Ult. I received on the 28th of the same Month, The Contents whereof giveth me sincere Pleasure; And I must say that in my Opinion, with Some few Persons over whom Mr. Ross had Influence, and whose Minds were under previous Bias, and hearing his Representation, If a Saul or Apollos had related what are the real Facts, it would not with them, have been admitted to due Credit; but which prejudices, if not entirely removed, will be staggered and checked by having the account immediately from you; and I take this opportunity most heartily to thank you Sir,

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 288.

for your Condescension in taking Notice of the Various parts of my tedious Letter;* And the Degree to which Government is already carried, and authorized by your Relation thereof, I trust will in due course of Time produce salutary Effects here, in the Establishment of like Order (which we much want); but it will take some Time, and require a steady, firm, and vigorous Exertion, before any Thing effectual will yet take place for the full Restoration thereof.

My former Letter under all its Gloom, hath set forth but a small part of the Conduct of some of the leading Men in some parts of the County; And hath been entirely silent in Respect of what may unless timely prevented be yet feared from Combinations actually set on Foot, (tho' conducted with such Secrecy and Caution that we cannot so fully get at the Bottom of them as to deal with the Subjects thereof in a legal way). In Order to oppose the Operations of Government, particularly in Respect to the Collecting of the Fines, incurred by the Non-associators, under the Resolves of the late Assembly, and appointed to be levied by Acts of the present Assembly, and the Substitution Monies made payable under the Regulations of the Militia Law, by those who are the Subjects thereof and who do refuse their personal Service.

A Meeting it is certain hath been held amongst the Germans near McCallister's Town, (properly Hanover) whereat as some do say One Hundred Persons were present, and it is reported the Party in the Secret are composed of 500 Persons, who either are or will become bound together to resist even unto the shedding of Blood and taking the Life, of any Officer or Person, who shall or may attempt to distrain or otherwise use any coercive means for the Recovery of the Fines so incurred, and I am farther told, they have threatened the Lives of Messrs McCallister and Slagle, but upon strict Enquiry I cannot be informed of any one Person who will avow to be of the Party, and as the Matter hath not yet been put to Trial, cannot determine to what Height it may be carried. But in my humble Opinion, it will be difficult to get either Collector or Constable to do and perform their Duties, without having at the Beginning a sufficient Force to protect them.

The Returns for Justices, for the Township of Berwick, I sent down inclosed in my former Letter together with my Observations thereon.

Inclosed I send you the Returns for Manchester Township, One whereof I heretofore mentioned, and the other was sent to me there with, and at the Request of some of the People I send both, and Refer the Appointment to the Council, with my Remarks in my former Letter, with this farther Observation, the two persons mentioned in the Last Returns are both Strangers to me, I know them not personally.

It will be of singular Service that the Commissions be sent by

* See page 515.

the first Post, I have good Grounds to believe that Mr. Slagle will immediately qualify, And I have now some Hopes that Mr. M^c^Callister will also qualify as a Justice at the same Time, If not I have his promise that he will at least take the Oath of Allegiance, as he saith he approves of it.

I have an Expectation of seeing the most of those of the Justices Elect, (who have not yet qualified) in a short time, whereby an Opportunity will be afforded of hearing from themselves their final Sentiments, in Respect of Complying with their Appointments, which when known, I shall transmit an account thereof to Council.

I am,
Sir,
with due Respect,
your most obe^t^ h^ble^ Servt,
ARCH^d^ M^c^CLEAN.

P. S. I have received since the Date of my last Letter (which I presume was not come to your Hands at the Time that you wrote) Eight Dozen of the Copies of the Constitution in German, and Twenty Dozen of the Copies thereof in English, and fifty Copies of the Laws of the Last Sessions of Assembly, which I shall properly disperse.

A. M^c^.

Directed,

To The Honourable George Bryan, Esquire, Vice President of the Supreme Executive Council, &c.

☞ Favour of Michael Hahn, Esq'r.

COMMODORE SEYMOUR TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

May it Please your Excellency:

Your known Candour and Love to Justice obliges me to take the Liberty in Inclosing my petition to you, praying, that my Rations may be allowed and paid me; which has been detained from me by a Resolve of the Honble the Executive Council & Board of War; Which I think Very Strange off; After my being in the Service Nigh Ten Months, Especially when the rest of the Officers under my Command regularly receivd theirs; had I been Inform'd that I was not to receive my pay, &c., agreeable to my Rank, when I came in to the Service, I never would have Inter'd into it; but by Coll^l^ Bayards promises & a Resolve Read off at Fort Island, Specifying that every officer in the State Service shou'd have & receive Continental pay agreeable to Each Officers Rank, which Coll^l^ Bayard can

Assert; your Petitioner therefore prays your Excellency will take the premises in Consideration & order him Such redress as your Excellency shall Think proper; your Excellency's Favour in this Will always be Acknowlege by your Excellency's

Very Humble Servant,

THO^s SEYMOUR.

Philadelphia 3^d of Septemb^r, 1777.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, President of the Supreme Executive Council For the Common Wealth of Pennsylvania.

PHINEAS BOND TO PRESIDENT WHARTON. 1777.

Sir,

I take the Liberty of inclosing you a copy of my Letter to the Three Gentlemen who attended me with a parole yesterday. From thence you will find, that what chiefly influenced me to execute *that* Paper, was an assurance from them, that my Limits would be enlarged upon application being made to you.

Their expectations and mine on this score are disappointed, and I therefore think myself justified in retracting what I have signed—The terms of the Parole I did not object to, in any Respect, but as to the narrowness of the Bounds to which I am limited.

The Charge for which I was deprived of my Liberty ought to be of a very serious nature indeed, to warrant so extraordinary Proceeding—I am at this moment totally ignorant of the *Charge*, and, be it what it may, I am satisfied it is not supported or supportable by any Proof or Color of Evidence.

But however irregular the Proceedings against me have been, I consented to the terms proposed, backed by the Promises of these Gentlemen, more I assure you, for the Peace sake of my family, than from any apprehension of what I might personally suffer.

I comfort myself with reflecting on my Innocence—I trust I have supported some little character in Life—Whatever may be my sentiments on public affairs, I have never promulgated them with a view of making Proselytes to my Opinion.—After what passed between you and one of my Friends yesterday, I think it incumbent upon me to inform you of my Determination—I entertain a due sense of your Civility and Kindness upon this occasion, for which be pleased to

accept my thanks—I must beg your Excuse for the trouble I have given you.

And am Sir,

your very hble Servt.

PHINEAS BOND.

Chestnut Street, Sept. 8d, 1777.

Directed.

Thomas Wharton, jr., Esq.

—

Gentlemen,

The assurances I received from one or more of you, that the limits of my Parole would be enlarged upon application to Mr. Wharton, was particularly situated as I am in Life, the chief Inducement to sign the Paper you produced yesterday.—One of my Friends has accordingly applied; but contrary to your expectations and mine his Request, has not been favor'd.

Thus circumstanced, I think myself perfectly at Liberty to retract and renounce the Parole I have enter'd into, which I hereby do, and declare that I do not consider myself in any wise bound by it; and being conscious, that I have never deviated from that line of conduct which a good Citizen ought to pursue, I shall on no account whatsoever conceal or withdraw myself; neither shall I in any Respect attempt to elude the search and inquiry of those who without assigning any cause, aim at restraining that Liberty, which as a freeman, I hold myself indisputably entitled to.

I am Gentlemen,

your very hble Servt

(Signed) PHINEAS BOND*.

Chestnut Street, Wednesday Morning, 3d Sept, 1777.

Directed.

To Messrs. William Bradford
Joseph Blewer, &
Matthew Irwin.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. pp. 289, 290, 300.

Resolutions of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, Sept 3, 1777.

Resolved,

That Congress approve of the Quakers being sent to Virginia and in the opinion of Congress, that Stanton in the County of Augusta, is the most proper place in the State of Virginia, for their residence and security; and with regard to the other prisoners, mentioned in their letter, Congress leave it to the Supreme executive council to do with them, as they in their wisdom shall think best.

Extract from the minutes,

CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.*

Directed.

The Supreme Executive Council, of Pennsylvania.

Joseph Kirkbride to President Wharton, 1777.

Sir,

I have the Honor to Acknowledge the rec't of your Excellencys Letter of the 27th ult., which came to hand this day with a printed Direction, both of which shall be paid all proper attention too.

With this Lieut White or Ensign Burrows will deliver your Excellencies, a List of 35 privates, all substitutes, which is an addition to Capt. Harrison's Comp^y now out in the 3rd class, under the command of Major Folwell. Their deficiency of arms, &c., will be delivered your Excellency by one of the officers, four other Comp^ies I hope we shall he able to send forward within five or six days, but am much afraid we shall be greatly defitient in arms, and other articles, I am taking every reasonable method I can to procure them and will furnish the men as far as they will go, must trust to furnish the rest in the City.

I am with the Greatest

Esteem your Excellencys

most obedient Hum. Servt

JO. KIRKBRIDE.

Newtown, 3rd Sept, 1777.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 290.

P. S. The officer will wait your Excellencys Orders, when & wear they are to march. J. K.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq., President, &c., of Pennsylvania.

Lieut. White.

Circular of Council to Justices, 1777.

In Council, Philadelphia, Sept. 4, 1777.

Gentlemen,

A number of Waggons are wanted to remove the ammunition & stores from this city. You are therefore to send down Waggons, with four horses each, as soon as possible, to be subject to the orders of Council, and to rendevouz at Mr. Jacob Hiltzheimers in seventh street.

Sup. Exec. Council to General Armstrong, 1777.

In Council, Philada., Sept. 4th, 1777.

Sir,

I am informed that a part of the Militia of Chester County, (not belonging to the Class now in the Field by order of Council,) apprehending that the Enemy would make an inroad into their County, and do them considerable Injury—had embodied themselves and apply'd for Ammunition and Rations at Head Quarters—but for reasons, and very likely those very sufficient—they were refused, which occasioned their returning home—if those people can render any essential service at this Juncture under the direction of the Commander in Chief, Council would willingly encourage them; and will consider their two months service at this time as if they had served in future Classes.

I am with respect,

Sr, your very h'l serv't.

Directed,

Gen. Armstrong.

Council to Lieutenants of Chester Co., 1777.

Col. Smith, Lieut. of Chester County, & his Sub-Lieu^{ts},

Sirs,

Council is informed that some of the Militia in the southern parts of your County, apprehending danger from the Enemy, had, in numbers sufficient to form two Companies, embodied themselves, to prevent any inroads of the enemy, and repaired to Head Quarters in order to be furnished with Ammunition & Rations—but that their services were not accepted of—probably on account of their not being willing to Joyn in with the other Militia, & to be under the direction of the Commander in Chief. I have written to Gen. Armstrong and requested that if those Gentlemen can propose to him a plan whereby they can render essential service to their Country at this time of imminent danger, that he will order them to be furnished with Rations, &c. for two months; the time which they should offer to serve; this shall be considered as equal to their service in the classes to which they belong. This may be extended to all other Volunteers that may go forth in the Common Cause; they first accomodating their services to the Ideas of Genl A———.

Sept. 4, 1777.

Directed,

To Col. Smith, & Sub-Lieut^{s} of Chester Co.

Sup. Executive Council to Col. Wm. Bradford, 1777.

Sir,

Council have resolved to send the prisoners now confined at the Free Masons lodge, to Stanton in the county of Augusta in the state of Virginia, there to be secured and treated in such manner as shall be consistent with their respective characters and the security of their persons—Which you are requested to communicate to and inform them that carriages will be provided for their accommodation on the journey, unless they chuse to provide themselves therewith. It is proposed that they go off on Saturday morning next.*

Thursday, Sept. 4, 1777.

Directed,

To Col. Wm. Bradford.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 290.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.*

In Congress, Septr 4, 1777.

Resolved: That the executive council of the State of Pennsylvania be requested to give orders that all the Militia of their State hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning, & that they see that their arms be put in as good condition as possible. That the said executive council be also requested to call out five thousand Militia from the city and county of Philadelphia, and the counties most adjacent; that they be earnestly requested to appear with what arms they have, and otherwise equipped in the best manner they may be able; and that the rendezvous on the heights of Derby, or at such other place as the commander in chief may direct.

Extract from the minutes.

CHARLES THOMSON, Secy.

Board of War to Executive Council, 1777.

War Office, Sept^t 4th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

The Board have directed me to enquire into the Situation of the Business relative to the Foundry at Southwark. The Founder & his Hands are & have been for some Time idle, as they have no Materials to work with. The Board is informed that the Council will not part with a Quantity of Copper belonging to the State of Pennsylvania, until it is settled on what Terms the Foundry was transferred to the United States. I have it therefore in Direction to request you will be pleased to inform the Board of the Demands the State have against the Foundry, & whether you are of opinion the Continent should take it subject to these Demands, or whether the Works & Materials should be valued at what they were worth when the Commissary Genl took Possession of them, & from this Estimate fix the Consideration on which the works &c. were transferred.

I have have the Honour to be

your very obed. Servt,

RICHARD PETERS, Secy.

Directed,

On Public Service.

His Excellency the President, & the Hon. Council of Pennsylvania.

War Office.

Richard Peters, Secy.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI, p. 293.

Isaac Melcher to President Wharton, 1777.

Sir,

I have no Waggons in my Department that are suitable to carry those Gent. that are Confined, nor have I hitherto been able to obtain any; many of the prisoners have Carriages; would it not be as well to them proceed in their own to the place destined? The Germantown light waggons are employed, as I have no prospect of getting such as are wanted, I think it my Duty to mention it.

I am, with defference & Respect,

Your Excellenc'ys

Most obd. Ser.,

ISAAC MELCHER.

The 5 Sep^{t}, 1777.

Directed,

His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, jun., Esq.

Jonathan Mifflin, D. Q. M. G., to President Wharton, 1777.

Wilmington, 5 Sep^{t}, 1777.

Sir,

Last Night Orders were issued for forming a new Encampment.

General Potter has applyed to me for 68 Waggons for the Militia under his and General Irwin's Command. All the Teams in this Neighbourhood are impressed, and transporting Stores from Magazines too near the Enemy. The Militia from our State discharged most of their Waggons immediately on their Arriving here, without informing me of it. I must therefore request your Assistance as the most speedy and proper Mode of supplying them. The Number applied for is too many in Proportion to those allowed the Continental Troops, who have their Tents to carry; they are furnished as follows:—One four Horse Team for the Field Officers, One for the Staff, & One to every 100 Men, including Officers, in each Reg^{t}. 12 Waggons will carry five Day's Provision for 2000 Men.

Militia should have some Indulgencies more than are allowed to Men who are become accustomed to the Fatigues of a Campaign; but then Attention must be paid to the sustaining such a Number of Horses as must necessarily be employed. I have given you the above Notes that a Regulation may be made for supplying every Batt^{n} equally that is called out in Future, & that the State & Army may not be distressed by too great a Consumption of Forage.

Please to send me the above number of Teams, tho' they may not all be wanted by Gen[l] Potter from my Calculation, yet I can then release Part of those I had when the Army lay at German Town, who are complaining at their Detention, and are willing to take their Tour of Duty.

I am, with Respect,

Your very hb[e] Serv[e],

JONA[s] MIFFLIN, D. Q. M. G.

Directed.

His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Esq[r], President of the State of Pennsylvania.

—On Public Service. Permit the Express to pass.

J. MIFFLIN, D. Q. M. G.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1777.

War Office, Sep[t] 5th, 1777.

Sir,

I have it in Direction to request that the Council will be pleased to give Orders to the Lieutenants of the several counties of York, Lancaster, Cumberland, Berks & Northampton, to furnish such Guards for the Prisoners of War & Continental Stores as shall be from time to time required of them by the Board of War or the several Dep'y Comissaries, Gen[l] of Prisoners or Military Stores in the said Counties Applications have been made to some of the Lieutenants & they have refused to furnish Guards without your orders for that Purpose.

I have the Honor to be

Your very obed[e] Serv[t],

RICHARD PETERS, Sec'y.

On Public Service.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Tho. Wharton, jun., Esqr, President of the Sup. Ex. Council, Pennsylvania.

War Office, Richard Peters, Sec'y.

President Wharton to Congress, 1777.

Sir,

In my letter of this day on the subject of the prisoners in the Mason's lodge, I ought to have mentioned the propriety of obtaining from Congress a recommendation to some person or persons in authority in Maryland & Virginia to support and countenance the conveying of these persons to the place of destination & to receive them there.

I am Sir, &c.

5th Sept, 1777.

Directed,

To the Hon. John Hancock, Esq.

Sup. Exec. Council to President of Congress, 1777.

In Council, Philadelphia, Sept. 5, 1777.

Sir,

The persons detained in the Masons lodge have notice of going for Augusta to-morrow. Light waggons are preparing and an escort fixing. Meanwhile Council having received the enclosed remonstrance from the twenty-one persons in the lodge are of opinion that some account of this transaction should be given to the public, as they understand these people mean to publish and raise a ferment. A short attempt of this kind was made yesterday; why it appeared not in the last evening post is not clear.

In the mean time it may perhaps be worth consideration whether the removal of those persons might not be relaxed as to such as would yet swear, or affirm, allegiance to this state. Your answer to this is desired.

Directed,

To the Hon'ble John Hancock, Esqre.

General Armstrong to President Wharton, 1777.

Wilminton, 5th Sepr, 1777.

Sir,

This day the whole of the Continental Troops at this place are to move forward far as Newport, as is Genl Potter's Brigade, Generals Irwin's Brigade remains upon the works at this place until further orders. At Newport we are to form, and perhaps throw up lines from Christiana on the Left, to White, or perhaps, Red Clay Creek (I forget which is the name) on the right.

The enemy, as far as we yet learn, appear to spread over some considerable space of Country, but in a detatched way from Couches Mills to some part of Notingham. In the Scirmiss of Wednesday morning perhaps the loss on each side may be nearly equal, but ours think themselves the best off. Deserters are frequently coming in, wholly Jermans, they call the enemy larger than they can possibly be.

For the Character of Quarter Master Genl some person is much wanted, he should be active, attentive, a Penman, and a man of device, and as he must have accounts and handle money, his probity council will easily advert to. Shou'd Council be at any loss about a proper person there are none occurs to me at present most fit than Mr. Matthew Irwin, late Commissary, or Capt. Lyttle.

About 400 more arms are wanted with all possible expedition, but we shall probably want a greater number as some are insufficient others wanting repairs. The State Artillery are not yet come up, and the moment uncertain when Mr. Howe may make his push or shou'd he delay we appear drawing nearer his Quarters. At Chester Genl DeCoudray's Engineer called and told me that the nine men formerly ordered to carry his chain had left him, of which I knew nothing, as it had been before I got to Chester, but told the Engineer he should either have the same men again or nine others in their room, or that nine of those left at Fort Island might answer the purpose. It then rained, I imagined the young man had only steped aside to wait for fair weather, call again, as he did not I concluded he chose the last proposal of nine from Fort Island, but to my surprise about a week after I received a letter from Genl Washington informing me of Mr. DeCoudray's heavy complaint of marching off his nine men, *of the difficulty, loss of time, money, to the publick* in employing new hands to carry chain and stick down a post. The General to get rid of such unnecessary trouble expressed his wishes I shou'd send back the same nine, upon which I immediately wrote Genl. Potter to send back the same men, who wrote me for answer he could not find them, and imagined their time was out & gone home. So that on the whole if the Engineer is not yet gone out to his survey with such men as he has at Fort Island, it may be expe-

dient that Council order nine of them for that service, altho' my written orders to that place have thrown the whole of those left at Fort Island under the direction of Gen[l] DeCoudray in point of labour. I am obliged to give Council the trouble of reading this frivolous stuff least you shou'd be pestered with the same complaint.

Please to forgive this blotted scrol being at present hurried & no time to get a copy.

And believe me to be,

with great truth,

Your Excellencys Most

Obed[t] humb[le] Servant.

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton.

JAMES GREGORY AND OTHERS TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Carlisle, Sep[r] 5th, 1777.

Sir,

If it should be found necessary by the Council to keep Militia in the field Longer than the two months which the first Class has to serve, being now out about two Weeks from here, we desire that notice thereof be given us at Least two Weeks before the time the Class to relieve them should appear at Camp as there will probably be some difficulties attending upon getting out the relief Class in time as could be wished.

You will also please, Sir, to inform us at same time how the Militia are to be paid their Subsistance from two Days before their March until they arrive at Carlisle or to the first Commissary of Issues where they may draw Rations. This is a matter of Much Inquiry by the Militia who have far to march before they can draw Rations, and as a Query we can't answer Satisfactorally.

A Number of Tories having been sent here from York Town, by order of Mr. Attley, Commissary of Prisoners, about ten days ago. We want directions from the Hon[ble] Council how they are to be Guarded, the Militia of this place (who have hitherto mounted night

Guard over them) not thinking it their duty so to do, but say a Guard ought to be hired for that purpose as has been in other places

We are

Your Excellency's

most obedient

most Humble Servants,

JAS. GREGORY,
BENJ^a BLYTH,
GEO. SHARP,
JOHN HARRIS,
JS. M^cDOWELL,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President of the Executive Council, Philadelphia.

Resolves of Council, 1777.

Philadelphia, Sept. 5, 1777.

Sir,

A remonstrance signed by the Gentlemen confined at the Masons lodge, having been presented to Council and read. The Council took the same into consideration and asked the advice of Congress thereon, which being received, Council thereupon passed the following resolve, which they beg the favour of you to communicate to the aforesaid Gentlemen.

In Council.

Philadelphia, Sept. 5, 1777.

Resolved, That such of the persons now confined in the lodge as shall take & subscribe the oath, or affirmation, of allegiance required by law in this common wealth, or that shall take & subscribe the following oath or affirmation, to wit, "I, , do swear (or affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Common Wealth of Pennsylvania, as a free and independant State,' shall be discharged.

I am respectfully,

your very humble servant,

T'y MATLACK, Sec'^r.*

Directed,

To Col. W. Bradford, present.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 292.

Supreme Executive Council to James Budden, 1777.

Sir,

Council, on further consideration, think it may be proper to send your whole troop (which are now in the city) with the prisoners now in the lodge, some distance out of town, and to continue the journey thro' to Virginia with such a number as shall be thought necessary.

I am respectfully,
your humble servant,
T. M.

It is proposed to furnish the escort with authority to call on the Lieutenant or Sub Lieutenants of the respective Counties for occasional aid.

Directed,

To James Budden.

State Navy Board to Supreme Executive Council, 1777.

State Navy Board, September 5th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

The board having the greatest reason to believe that some parts of the enemies fleet will soon attempt to invade the city, beg leave to make the following remarks:

That some persons may be ready to lay Hog Island and the meadows under water.—*Navy Board will do this.

That flatts or boats be got to make a bridge over from Fort Island to Province Island, if that should be wanted.

That ninety or one hundred Men should be immediately put into the fort At Derby Creek.—*One Company Artillery, & one Company Musqueters at Derby Creek.

That four pieces of Cannon should be got for Billingsport for the present, if nothing more can be done.

That some person may be put in charge of the Fort At Fort Island, as things are much out of repair there.

That thirty men may be ready to be put on bush Island, where there is at present two eighteen pounders, and no body to take care of them.—*One Company Artillery at Fort Island & Bush Island.

By Order of the Board,
JOSEPH BLEWER, Cm., 1759.

Directed,

To The Honorable Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

* These are marginal notes.

SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO JAMES BUDDEN, 1777.

Philadelphia, Sept. 5, 1777.

Sir,

Council request you to nominate two Gentlemen of the Light Horse to attend a number of prisoners to Virginia, sent there by order of Congress with the concurrence of Council. It is intended that they go off to-morrow evening, (perhaps not very early.)

your humble servant,

T'Y MATLACK, Sec'y.

Directed,

To Mr. James Budden, present.

SUP. EXC. COUNCIL TO COL. JEHU EYRES, 1777.

In Council, Philadelphia, Sept. 6th 1777.

Sir,

There is great reason to believe that the Enemys Ships will make an attempt to weigh the Chevaux De Frize, and to destroy our Fortifications on the Delaware, with design to reach this city, whilst their army is endeavoring to penetrate the Country; it therefore becomes absolutely necessary for Council to pay strict attention to these matters.

The Works at Billingsport, Fort Island, Darby Creek and Bush Island, by order of his Excell'y Gen. Washington, are left almost without Guards. You will therefore immediately repair to these Works and Post the two Companys of Militia Artillery that are under your command, in such way as to you may appear most advantageous—& I desire you will use your utmost endeavors to have those Fortifications put into as good a state of Defence as possible, under the direction of such officer as Gen. Washington has or may order for that purpose—proper attention should be paid to the Military & other stores, &c., that are already or may hereafter be ordered there, have them carefully examined, & see that no waste or embezzelment happens, & make report to Council of the quantity & state they are in. In conjunction with the commands officers of our Fleet I request you will exert yourself to take, burn, sink, or otherwise destroy the Enemys ships or vessels that may attempt to Invade this or the neighbouring States. I expect in a few Days three or four Companys of the Militia from Bucks County, the whole of which or a part, as there may be occasion, I shall order to reinforce you.

I am with respect,

Sr,

your very Hum. St.

Directed,

Coll. John Eyres.

Sup. Exec. Council to Lieutenants of Co's, 1777.

In Council, Philadelphia, September 6, 1777.

Sir,

As it is now become certain that the intention of the enemy is to invade this State and to get possession of this city, Congress by a resolve dated yesterday, has recommended to the Council to give orders that all the militia of this state hold themselvss in readiness to march at a moments warning, and that Council see that their arms be put in as good condition as possible, and for the present order out five thousand militia, to rendezvous on the heights of Derby, and that they appear with what arms they have, or can procure, and otherwise equipped in the best manner they may be able. I therefore request & order that you immediateiy [order] out the class of your militia to rendezvous at Derby agreeable to the said resolves, and that with the utmost expedition, equipt in the best manner possible. I have full expectation that by the time the militia gets to Derby, a number of arms will be procured, tho' perhaps not sufficient to equip them: Therefore I desire you will not fail in exerting yourself to have them properly furnished.

In order to induce the militia to take into the Field their own arms, blankets, &c., Council has passed the enclosed resolve, thereby securing payment to the owners of such arms and blankets, in case they should be taken by the enemy, or otherwise unavoidably lost. This, I hope, will afford a good supply of those articles, and I wish you to make the resolve known to the people, that it may have the desired effect.

It is very neeessary you should, constantly & firmly, contradict all reports that the army, under his Excellency General Washington, is already too numerous, or that it is needless for the people to turn out on the present occasion. These are the inventions of internal enemies. Militia from Virginia and the western counties of Maryland are coming down, and a considerable body is called from New-Jersey. No friend of his country can throw any barr in the way of the march of our own people, when the state is become the direct object of the enemy. Council expect that the levying the sums paid to substitutes in your first class now in the field, has been proceeded in with vigor, in order that the hearty patriots and men of resolution may be convinced, that others who skulk at home, or are, or pretend to be withheld by scruples of conscience, may in some degree, yield an equivalent. To omit this must create mischievous dissatisfactions in the breasts of those who hazard their lives in the field, and greatly injure the public cause.

Whilst we limit our present order to one class, I beg you may communicate to the officers and privates of the future classes not yet called out, the earnest wishes and hopes of Council, that volunteers

may turn out in this hour of their countrys distress. Such may be assured, that they will have like encouragement and reward as the classes called out, and that their services for two months will be considered and allowed hereafter, as two months service in the respective classes to which they belong. You will, I doubt not, take care, either to incorporate them in the companies of the class now called out, or if you form seperate corps, take care not to multiply officers beyond a true proportion. This last caution, indeed, should be ever attended to.

Sup. Executive Council to Congress, 1777.

In Council, Philada., Sept. 6, 1777.

Sir,

The S. E. C. of P. have considered a resolve of Congress, of this day,* handed to them by Messrs Sergeant & Thompson. At the moment this came, Council were disposing of every thing for the immediate departure of the Prisoners in the Masons Lodge. An hearing of some of these persons, on a peculiar footing, is now recommended. This may probably be tedious, but can answer no good purpose. Besides, the restraint of suspicious persons, in like exigencies as the present, may be abundantly justified by the example of the first nations, & most judicious civilians. [writers.]

However, in the midst of the present load of important business before the Council, particularly the embodying of the Militia, they have not leisure to undertake it. Interrupted & hindered as they have been already, by this affair, they find their proper & necessary concerns * * * so much delayed, to yield any further attention to it. Council, therefore, request that Congress will hear & dispose of the prisoners in the Masons Lodge, and also of those who are held on promise or parole, in such manner as to their wisdom shall seem best: and for this purpose a list is herewith sent you.

Directed,

To hon'ble John Hancock, Esqr, President of Congress.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 298.

Sup. Exec. Council to Navy Board, 1777.

In Council, Philadelphia, September 6, 1777.

Gentlemen,

As Council cannot justify to themselves or to the State, that the actual command of the naval force should continued in the hands of Commodore Seymour,* whose health is very uncertain and whose age is far advanced, they have resolved to commit the real command of the same to Commodore Hazlewood, as you will find by a copy of the resolve inclosed.

At the same time, council earnestly recommend to you, to inquire into the conduct and character of the Commander of each Vessel, and take such measures as will secure to the State, the most effectual service from this very expensive armament, in the hour of trial.

Directed.

To State Navy Board.

Sup. Exec. Council, to Jon'n Mifflin, 1777.

In Council, Philadelphia, Sept 6, 1777.

Sir,

Yesterday I received your letter respecting Waggons for the use of the Militia, and immediately sent to the Magistrates of some of the Counties to send to this city, or to you at camp, as should be most convenient, the number of waggons you require. Council had a few days since ordered a few in, if they are not absolutely wanted here they shall be sent forward to you immediately.

I am Sir

your very

humble servant

T. W.

Directed,

To Jonathan Mifflin, jr., Esq., D. Q. M. G.

* See Col. Rec., vol. XI, p. 298.

Return of the Militia Belonging to the State of Pennsylvania, Sept. 6th, 1777.

Colonels.	City & County.	Officers Present. Commissioned. Colonels.	Lt. Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Staff. Chaplains.	Adjutants.	Qr. Master.	Surgeons.	Mates.	Non-Commis'n. Sergeants.	Drums.	Fifes.	Rank & File. Fit for duty.	Sick present.	Sick absent.	On Comm'd.	On Furlough.	Total.	Alterations since last Return. Dead.	Deserted.	Discharged.
Potters Brigade.																								
Moor,	Philada. County,	1	1	1	7	11	4		1	1	1		17	8	6	155	18		79	15	287		12	3
McVaugh,	Do. Do.	1	1	1	7	11	6		1	1	1		23	7	7	230	26	3	4	7	280		8	2
Folwell,	Bucks,			1	5	2	1		1	1	1		13	2	3	122	14	3	6	9	154			3
Watson,	Lancaster,	1		1	4	6	4		1	1	1		12	1	1	58	7	3	76	2	146		6	
Hunter,	Berks,	1	1	1	5	7	4	1	1	1	1		17	4	3	184	27	13	47	1	272		2	
Thomson,	York,	1		1	4	4	4						14	2	2	121	6				127			
Dunlap.	Cumberland.	1	1	1	7	11	7		1	1	1		22	4	2	150	15	2	95	2	264		3	1
Irvines Brigade.																								
Smith,	Philadelphia,		1	1	6	11	6		1	1		1	24	6	6	353	13	2		3	371		7	
Evans,	Chester,	1	1	1	8	14	7		1	1	1		26	4	4	282	27	3	30		342		17	
Greenwalt,	Lancaster,	1	1	1	3	5	2		1	1	1		8	3	1	66	3	1	61	1	132		2	
Lowry,	Do.	1	1		4	7	3			1			12	3	3	90	12	1	69	3	175		2	
Ballat,	Northampton,	1		1	4	8	5		1	1			18	6	6	139	23	3	48		213			
Utree.	Berks.	1	1		5	10	6		1	1	1		21	6	4	183	21	5		1	210		45	
Total,		11	9	11	69	107	59	1	11	12	9	1	227	56	48	2043	212	39	515	44	2973		[illegible]	

JNO. BULL, A. Gen. S. P.

3 Mistakes in this return, on the first line of Col. Moors Battn. of Philada. County, mistake of 20 in the Total, and in the next line of Col. McVaughs 10 over counted, and in Total of fit for duty, 90 under or less than should be.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, Sept 6, 1777.

Congress took into consideration the remonstrance of Israel Pemberton, James Pemberton, John Pemberton, Thomas Wharton, Henry Drinker, Thomas Fisher, Samuel Pleasants, Sam'l R. Fisher who were taken into custody upon the recommendation of Congress, praying to be heard, whereupon Resolved That it be recommended to the Supreme executive council of the State of Pennsylvania to hear what the said remonstrants can alledge to remove the suspicions of their being disaffected or dangerous to the United States, and act therein as the said council judge most conducive to the public safety.

Extract from the minutes,

CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.*

Jon'n Mifflin to President Wharton, 1777.

Newport, 7th Sept, 1777.

Sir,

I did myself the honour to write to you 5th Inst for a Number of Waggons.

The Enemy have disencumber'd themselves of all heavy Baggage, in order to move with the greater ease & Rapidity; his Excellency has therefore issued orders that the whole Army send away all Baggage, except Blankets, & a few small Cloaths, and desired me to write to you to forward the Teams as soon as possible, they are to be stationed in the Rear of the Divisions, & immediately on an Alarm the Tents, & small Packs left with the Men were to be sent over Brandywine.

Thirty waggons with Flour have come down from Lancaster, with which, & a few I have impressed, the Militia are nearly supplied. As you have ordered waggons to Philada., if you can increase the Number I wrote for to 80 or 100 it will be sufficient for every present Purpose.

You may be assured I will not incroach upon the Rights of Civil Authority, & exert Military force but in Cases that will not admit the Delay of an Application to you.

Please to answer mine by this Express.

I am Sir

with Respect

Your Obd^t hble Servt

J. MIFFLIN, D. Q. M. G.†

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 293.

† See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 294.

Directed,

Permit the Express to pass, J. Mifflin, D. Q. M. G.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Resolution of Council, 1777.

In Congress, Sept 8, 1777,

Whereas William Imlay a prisoner of the United States upon suspicion of disaffection, has offered to take an oath of allegiance to the state of New York, of which he is a citizen.

Resolved, therefore that it be recommended to the Supreme Executive council of the State of Pennsylvania, to discharge the said William Imlay on his parole of honour, that he will forthwith repair to Kingston in the State of New York, & take the oath of allegiance to the said State.

Extract from the minutes.

CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.*

Council to Jonathan Mifflin, 1777.

In Council Philada. Sept. 8, 1777.

Sir,

I wrote to you a few Lines in answer to your first Letter respecting Waggons. Last night I recd your Letter of the 7th,† on the same Subject, and feel myself very uneasy that I cannot furnish the Number you require immediately. Expresses are gone to some of the Counties to hurry them in, and when they arrive I shall take Care to forward them to you with the Utmost expedition. Nevertheless if they do not get to you in time, and you find there is an absolute Necessity for them, the inconveniency of impressing must be submitted to by the inhabitants of this State—at the same time I beg leave to recommend to you to employ Sober discreet persons upon this business, so that the people may suffer as few inconveniencies as may be.

I am Sir,
yours, &c.

Directed.

Jon. Mifflin, Esq., D. Q. M. G., New Port.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 295, 296.
† See page 596.

General Armstrong to President Wharton, 1777.

Head Qrs Newport, Del., 8th [Sepr,] 1777.

Sir,

Last night I rec'd your favour of the 5th Inst. The Troops acoming from Bucks County must if not Armed receive their Arms at Philada, or wait for them at Wilmington, for at head Quarters we have nothing of that kind.

I am of opinion with your honourable Council, that the five thousand additional to the former demand, lately called for by Congress, are a number too large, they cannot be Armed by the publick, and if the neighbouring States do any thing at all, we may venture to say with some degree of positivity they will not be wanted. The Resolve for raising occasionally as many as may guard or conduct the Prisoners &c., I take to be a prudent one & liberal enough, only that Council will please to keep an attentive eye that not less than four or five thousand without a Chasm remain in the field. The two Brigades by the last return I have had amount in the total to 2973 perhaps the next return may be more perfect. On the Subject of Desertion I will commit somewhat to Coll. Henry. This morning we expected the approach of the Enemy & yet continue to look for their movemt. My private Opinion is, which last night I delivered to his Excellency, That if Mr. Howe do not come on very soon, his intentions is to Reembark on the Delaware, Cross over & land where he may think most convenient on the Jersey Shore, march up to the Shevar de frize, & the Ships of force by Water, from these I presume he will not again separate at any great distance but Cooperate as far as may be, & by these in the Sequel expects to Bumbard the City. From this Conjecture, the two following inferences are natural, we shou'd either attack him in his Camp, or if he move press hard upon his rear and this before the Shipping get round. The former requires better intelligence than any our good General has received. The 2d is that the Jersey Militia shou'd immediately finish the Labour at Billings-port or rather take post on their own Shore. This I shall mention to the General, but wish Congress would anticipate his letters by immediately writing to Governor Livingston if that is not already done. Your favour of the 6th, is this moment come to hand. I shall take particular care to have the resolves respecting Arms & Blankets Communicated to the Soldiery. The Army generally are in good Spirits & look for Action. I cannot add but that

I am with perfect respect

Your Excellencies

Most Obedt humble Servt,

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Directed, His Excellency Thomas Wharton Junr., Philadelphia. Favour'd ☞ Colo Henry.

Sup. Exec. Council to President of Congress, 1777.

In Council, Sept. 8, 1777.

Sir,

Col[l] Lochry, Lieutenant of Westmoreland County in this State, is come down to represent the distresses of the people on our western frontier from the Indian Ravages, & to procure assistance. Council intend to purchase & send up all the rifled Guns, of which that County is very bare that may be had; & to supply ammunition to the Settlers to make some defence at their habitations, & at large. But they could wish, that Congress would afford some attention to the general State of these people, as it is to be feared, that without something be done for their relief the Allegeny Mountain will soon become the frontier. Col. Lochry says he has found some difficulties to arise in respect to the Rations, necessary for the Militia, ordered out by Gen[l] Hand, which has disatisfied the people sent out, & hurt the service. Perhaps, it may be judged proper to appoint one or more of your members to confer with M[r]. Lochry.

T. W.

Directed,
To hon'ble John Hancock, Esq.

Supreme Exec. Council to Justices of Counties, 1777

In Council, Sept'r 8, 1777.

Sir,

The demand for Waggons increases, not only for the immediate use of the army under his Exc[y] Gen. Washington, but for the purpose of removing stores of different kinds from this City, as well as to assist the Familys of Poor Militia men, who are in actual service, in removing their effects; therefore Council is under the absolute necessity of calling again upon the magistrates of your County to furnish , which I request you without loss of time to send immediately to this City.

There is every reason to believe that an action between the two armys will very soon happen, and Waggons are greatly wanted to remove Baggage, &c., not only from Camp, but in case of any accident, out of the City also. Wherefore, I trust you will exert yourselves on this occasion.

I am Sir,
your, &c.

Lancaster County, 100.
Berks County, 100.

Directed, To Justices of Lancastor & Berks C[o].

Sup. Exec. Council to Col. L. Nicola, 1777.

9th Sep^r, 1777.

Sir,

Council in concurrence with Congress have determined to send away from this City the prisoners under your Care, [*in the Free-Masons's Lodge.*] They must proceed to-morrow over the Bridge across Schuylkill. The Light Horse Militia of the City have undertaken to escort them to the place assigned them, but the presence & aid of the City Guards, or part of them, will be proper till they pass the Bridge; Council depends on your attention. If the Gentlemen, or any of them, prefer their own Carriages for the Journey you are to permit them to use them.

The door-keeper says he has engaged three light Waggons, the best carriages that can be had for this purpose. But it is necessary to request your endeavours to procure three more. Mr. Hiltzheimer can assist and direct you. But least there be any difficulty in hiring, we send you herewith power to impress enough.

Directed,

To Col. Nicola.

Representation of Episcopal Churches to Supreme Executive Council, 1777.

To the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Representation of "the Corporation of the Rector, Church-"Wardens & Vestrymen of the United Episcopal Churches of "Christ Church & St. Peter's Church in the City of Philadelphia, "in the Province of Pennsylvania."

Gentlemen,

Being truly alarm'd and concern'd at hearing that the Rev^d Mr. Coombe, one of our Assistant Ministers, had been arrested in his own House, and remov'd from thence & put under Confinement, we appointed a Committee to wait upon him, in order to satisfy ourselves by what authority he was made a prisoner, what charge had been brought against him, whether he had applied for an hearing, and whether a hearing had been granted? His answer by the Committee was: "That he was confined by a Resolve of the Presi-"dent & Council of Pennsylvania, form'd in consequence of a reco-

"mendatory Resolve of Congress. That the general charge was "his having evinced a disposition inimical to the cause of America "That he had join'd with some respectable Fellow Citizens, who "were imprison'd with him, in an application for a hearing; that "an hearing had not been granted, but that he was inform'd by a "messenger from the Council, That he is to be sent to Augusta "County in Virginia."

We beg leave to observe to you, Gentlemen, that the connexion betwixt Ministers & People hath, in every Christian State, been deem'd a Tender & Spiritual one; an attempt to dissolve this connexion by the removal of a Minister upon a general charge, without suffering him to know his accusers, or being heard in his own defence, cannot but be deem'd an Infringement of Religious as well as Civil Liberty.

The Respect we have for Mr. Coombe, and the Duty we owe to our Constituents, the members of the two Episcopal Churches in this City, whom we have the honor to represent, will not permit us to be silent on this occasion. We do, Therefore, as well for ourselves as in the Name & Behalf of these respectable Congregations, earnestly request it of you, as you regard the Civil & Religious Rights of Freemen, & the present Constitution of Pennsylvania, from whence alone you derive your authority as a Council, that Mr. Coombe be admitted, as his undoubted Birth Right, to an hearing in the Face of his Country.

Not suffering ourselves to doubt of your chearfull compliance with this most reasonable request,

We are, Gentlemen,
with all due respect,
Your humble Servants,

JACOB DUCHÉ, Rector.
THO^s. CUTHBERT, } Church Wardens.*
JAMES REYNOLDS, }

Sign'd by Order of Vestry.
Philadelphia, Sepr 9th, 1777.

Indorsed,
" Read in Council, Sep. 9. Ordered to lye on the Table.
T. M., Sec'y."

* See Colon. Rec. Vol, XI., pp. 288. 296, 300. See Archives, page 603.

State Navy Board to Supreme Exec. Council, 1777.

Gentlemen,

The Bearer Mrs. Bridget Rogers, a poore woman with a young child at her Brest, who had her Husband killed on board the Washington galley, prays you for some Relief, & I belive is worthy of any thing That may be done for her.

Your most Obt &
Very Humbl Servt
JOHN HAZELWOOD.

Septr 9th, 1777.

Directed,

To the Honble Navy Board.

State Navy Board, September 9th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

Whereas there is many poor Women (the above is one) whose husbands have been in the Naval Service of this State, & who by death and otherways, their wives are in the greatest distress, and as the board think they have no authority to give the least relief from the Publics Money in their hands, they recommend them to your clemency to render such relief as you may judge right.

By order of the Board,
JOSEPH BLEWER, Chm.

Directed,

To The Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

James Read to Secretary Matlack, 1777.

Sir,

I have been prevented by many occurrences from leaving Home on many overtures to go to the City; and now in particular, (when I hope'd to have set out this day,) Michael Hillegas, Esqr, the Continental Treasurer, has very ernestly requested me to be one of three Persons, (if two more can be had, not one of whom is yet fixed upon,) to attend the Continental Press, and to Deliver the Sheets of Bills to Signers and take Receipts from them; which most effectually bars up my way to the City; so that I am unhappy in not being able

to wait upon the Honourable The President of the Executive Council, in order to offer my Bond as Prothonotary, with Colonel Haller for surety, which I was not fortunate enough to know an Act of Assembly had made necessary, at the Time of my taking the oath of Allegience and Oath of Office, nor did I know this till some considerable Time after I came Home. Col. Haller is a Gentleman of a plentiful Fortune here, he will show you the Form of the Bond which I have drawn conformable to Law; and, if he should be approved, we will immediately execute it, and I will bring or transmit it to you. Mr James Whitehead is the pro tempore Officer of the Courts. I am recommended with Mr Whitehead and Mr Henry Christ, Junr., for choice of Clerk of Sessions. Of this and some other important matters which you should be made acquainted with, I will soon write fully; and, when two others are appointed to attend, with me, the Continental Press, I will get leave of absence for a few days and do myself the Honour of waiting on the Honourable The President, when I hope I shall have the Pleasure of your Company.

With much Esteem and Respect,

I am

Sir,

Your most humble servt,

JAMES READ.

Reading, September 9th, 1777.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Secretary to the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia.

By Colonel Haller.

Supreme Executive Council to Episcopal Churches of Philadelphia, 1777.

In Council Philada, Septr 9, 1777.

Gent,

It is with Concern, that Council have read an address from the Rector, Church Wardens & Vestry of the united Episcopal Churches of Christ Church & St. Peters Churches in the City of Philadelphia* concerning the Revd Mr. Coombe. His case is wholly political. They would be sorry your Corporation should draw imputations on them by this application.

I am directed to inform you, that Council had, before this piece came, determined to send away Mr Coombe and the rest of the

* See Page 600. Colon. Rec. Vol. XI, p. 300.

prisoners; and that his connection with your congregation can be no argument in his behalf.

I am, &c.

Directed,

To the Corporation of the Rector, Church Wardens and Vestry of the United Episcopal Churches of Christ Church and St. Peters Church in the City of Philadelphia.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, Septr 9, 1777.

Congress having received information from General Washington, that a great part of the enemy's fleet have sailed, with the intention, as it is apprehended, to come round into the Delaware river; and whereas, General Washington hath requested that a proper lookout be kept up and intelligence be sent him with as much dispatch as possible of the movements of the said fleet.

Resolved, That the Executive Council of Pennsylvania be informed thereof, and that it be recommended to them to pay immediate attention thereto.

Extract from the Minutes.

CHAS. THOMSON, Secy.

Prisoners in Masonic Lodge to Col. Nicola, 1777.

The Prisoners confined in the Masons Lodge, having seen Orders at 8 O Clock last night from the Vice President & Council to Lewis Nichola, dated 9th Sep^r, 1777, which was the notice of the Time proposed for their removal

They ask him or the President & Council thro him

How are we to be sent into Banishment? if in Carriages?

What sort, & how many? Are we to be furnished with Baggage Waggons, & how many?

What Provisions & Stores are provided for so long a Journey?

What number of Beds & Bedding?

Who is to pay our Travelling Expences, & for our Support during our Absence from our Families & Business.

Are not such of us whose Families & Affairs require their Presence & Assistance preparatory to their leaving home, at liberty to repair there, & to have the necessary Communication with their Friends by Letter during our Absence?

To whose Custody are we to be committed when there? And will they have Authority to suffer us or one or more of us to visit our Families upon a promise to return in Case urgent Circumstances should require it?

Are we not to have a certified Copy of our Commitment to that Country, & of the Orders accompanying it, that we may know in what Point of View we are represented, & in what manner we are to be treated?

Mason's Lodge, Philad^a, Sep. 10th, 1777.

Are we to have it in our power to apply to the Officers of any Government in which we may be, for Redress of any Grievances we may labour under?

H. Christ and others to President Wharton, 1777.

May it please your Excellency,

Your Excellency's Letter in Council of the 8th Instant came to hand yesterday per Express. We immediately convened together on the important subject thereof, And as Mark Bird, Esqr, D. Q. M^r, hath already rec^d orders from the board of War for 100 Wagons to be sent down (which at this time are difficult to be procured), We are at a loss to know whether your Excellency requires 100 Waggons more than the 100 Mr. Bird hath orders for out of Berks.

We have therefore thought expedient to forward an Express to be certain, As the Farmers are now putting in their Grain and such a mistake at this time would be attended with great loss to the public welfare. If it's your Excellency's intention that a hundred be sent down exclusive of those Mr. Bird hath orders for, We shall exert ourselves in procuring them as quit as possible.

We are,

May it please your Excellency,

Your Excell'ys obed^t h'ble Serv^ts,

HENRY CHRIST.
JACOB SHOEMAKER.
JOHN LUDWIG.
SAMUEL ELY.
DANIEL ROTHERMEL.

Reading, 10th Sept^r, 1777.

Directed,

On public Service To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jr., Esquire, President, &c., Philadelphia.

Per Express.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, Sep. 10, 1777

Resolved,

That the interest which shall arise after the date of this resolution on Loan office certificates already issued, or which shall be issued before the first day of March next, be annually paid at the respective Loan offices in bills of exchange on the commissioners of the United States in Paris, at the rate of five livres of France for every Spanish milled dollar due for interest as aforesaid, or in continental bills of credit at the option of the respective lenders.

Ordered,

That a copy of the above resolution be sent to the executive powers of the several States with a request that they will order the same to be published in their respective gazettes successively.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Peter De Haven to President Wharton, 1777.

French Creek, Sept. 10, 1777.

Sir,

I Recod a Letter from Dockter Kanady Requesting Me to Let him have one Hundred Stand of arms at the Yallo Spring, as there was a Subspition of the Towrys Raising, I immediately sent him answer that it was not in My Power to Deliver aney arms or Amunytion Without an order from the Executive Council, I should be glad if you would send Me Word if I shall Let him have Aney, I Likewise should be Abledg to you if you give My Son an order to your Salt Work for one Load of Salt, as Wee Do Stand in Great Need of Sum, I Cant get aney, and Wee have A great Maney Men to Provide for.

I Remain your
Humble Servant,

PETER DE HAVEN.

Directed.

To The Honble Thomas Wharton, Esqr, Presid^t to the Ex^e Council for the State of Pennsyl^a.

Peter De Haven to Vice President Bryan, 1777.

French Creek, Sept. 10, 1777.

Sir,

Wee have got sum information that thare is Part of Mr. Hows armey Within four Miles of Downins Town, & I believe thay intend for our Magazene, and Wee are in a Very Poor Situation for defending it, I should be very glad if you Would Send A Proper Gard for this Place, I have Rid threw this Naberhood to Procure Waggons, but Could get but 8 or 10 to Move Sum of the Powder toward Reddin, but to what Place I am a stranger.

I Re your Hum. Servt,

PETER DE HAVEN.

Directed,

To Mr. George Bryan, Vice President of the Ex. Councyl.

Instructions to the Escort of Prisoners, 1777.

In Council.

Sept. 10, 1777.

Instructions to Mr Saml Caldwell & Mr Alexr Nesbitt,* who have the direction of the Escort appointed to conduct the prisoners, now in the Free Masons Lodge, towards Augusta, in Virginia.

These persons will be placed in light Covered Waggons, in such manner as not to be crowded; you are to attend them on this journey by the common road to Reading, in Berks County, taking care to procure every suitable accommodation for them on the way. A proper degree of firmness & watchfulness as well as politeness is also necessary; your attention to these will doubtless be given. With the present instructions you have also an order directed to the Lieutenants & Sub Lieutenants of the Militia of Philadelphia & Berks, to afford you all aid that you may call for.

When you arrive at Reading you are to deliver over your Charge to Jacob Morgan, Esquire, Lieutenant of the County of Berks, or to John Old, Esqr, Sub. Lieut, who is already prepared with directions to receive and provide for their further Journey to Virginia.

A sum of money, viz., £100, is herewith put into your hands, to defray the expenses of the prisoners, the guard, the Waggoners, & of yourselves. The ballance which remains, please to pay to Jacob Morgan, Esquire, & take his receipt for it.

Here follows a list of the names of the prisoners.†

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 299. † Names not inserted.

If the Gentlemen, or any of them prefer their own Carriages, you will permit it, upon proper assurance that they will be kept throughout the Journey, provided they be equal to it.

Pres't Wharton, to Col. Nicola, 1777.

Sir,

The Gentlemen of the light Horse have made earnest application to be allowed to join Gen. W., & to be released from the journey to Virginia. This request is laudable; but it comes inconveniently, & makes some new provision needful for the escorting the prisoners in the Lodge. At present, it is proposed to intrust the direction of this business to two Gentlemen of the Troop, & a competent number of your City Guards mounted on horseback as far as Reading. Your Sentiments on this scheme, if you see any difficulty, are desired. It it hoped, the number necessary, will be small. This will perhaps be better seen after the journey has been entered on, a few miles.

I am Sir,

Your very obed^t Servt.

10th Sept, 1777.

Directed.

To Col. Nicola.

Sup. Exec. Council to Col. Morgan, 1777.

In Council, Philada., Sept 10, 1777.

Sir,

The subject of the present Letter is the removal of several Gentlemen of this city by Council, out of the State. They have uniformly manifested in their general charactar & conversation, a disposition highly inimical to the cause of America, their stay of course in this City, at this time of invasion & danger, is become highly improper. You will find by the inclosed Instructions the place they are destined for, & the mode of removing them. Messrs. ———, ———, two of the light horse Militia of this City, with a party of our city guard on horseback, are the escort to Reading. These Gentlemen will be able to inform you of the guard, that will be proper to send forward. The first plan, was to send a sufficient party of these light horse to Virginia, but the present approach of Gen. Howe, calls them to camp. I therefore, must request you to look out for a person of humanity,

good breeding, & firmness to superintend the further conveyance of these Gentlemen to Staunton, & to assist him with a proper escort, mounted on horseback. You may see by the Instructions for this officer, which are inclosed,* that all politeness towards the prisoners & due attention to their comfort is desired. Every charge from you on this head, will doubtless be given.

I send you by John Old, Esquire, the sum of £ five hundred pounds, to be supplied to defray the expense of the journey, Messrs. Alexander Nesbitt, & ———, have received £100 pounds for the same purpose till the prisoners are delivered to you; they will pay you the remainder, after providing for their own charges homewards.

You have also with this Letter, an order directed to the Lieut's., & Sub Lieut's, of Lancaster & Cumberland, to give every necessary aid, & the Messrs. Alex^r Nesbitt, ———, will deliver to you the Dispatches from the War Office of Congress, relative to their passage thro' Maryland & Virginia & reception at Staunton, It will be proper that you add to these an open letter to the Lieut^s & the sub Lieut^s of Lancaster & Cumberland Counties, & all other officers in this state, & elsewhere, attesting & certifying that your superintendant is the officer intrusted with this business.

The light waggons must necessarily go on, & also the heavy ones, unless others are substituted. This information is given betimes, that no delay be made at Reading

Directed.

To Colonel Morgan.

Instructions to Escort of Prisoners, 1777,

In Council, Philada. 10 Sept, 1777.

Instructions to the Gentlemen to whom Colonel Jacob Morgan, lieutenant of Berks County shall commit the charge of certain prisoners, sent from Philadelphia, for Staunton in Virginia, under the conduct of Messeurs Samuel Caldwell & Alexander Nesbitt, who are to deliver them to said Mr. Morgan at Reading.

You will proceed by the common road thro' Carlisle with these persons to Staunton in Augusta County in Virginia, you will find them furnished with light covered waggons, in such manner as not to be crouded. Your careful attendance throughout, will be necessary. Every suitable accommodation should be procured for them on the way; But whilst you manifest politeness, & tenderness a proper degree of firmness, & watchfulness will be also required, with these instructions, you have an order directed to the Lieut^s & sub Lieut^s

* See page 607.

of Lancaster & Cumberland Counties to aid you in all cases that may be needful.

If the Gentlemen, prisoners, or any of them, prefer their own, or other Carriages, provided by themselves, they are to be permitted to use them; but then they are to keep them throughout the journey.

When you get into Maryland, & Virginia, you will look into the dispatches from the War office, & take direction from them, you will we doubt not, in consequence be assisted by the officers of these states and on your arrival at Staunton, the prisoners received, & treated according to their stations.

The proper sum of money will be advanced to you by Col. Morgan to defray the charges of the Gentlemen, committed to your care, of the escort, the Waggoners, & all other attendant expenses; of this disburse, a regular account should be kept, & Vouchers preserved.

Here follows, a list of the prisoners: Viz.:

Sup. Exec. Council to Committee for Driving off Cattle, 1777.

In Council. Philada. Sept 10th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

The Business of driving off Cattle, to which the Council appointed you, is of the greatest moment, and requires your utmost attention.

The bearer Mr. Ludwick Kerker is assistant purchaser of Provisions for our army, it may be well enough for you to confer with him on the subject.

I am Gent
your very Humᵉ Servᵗ

Col. Hunter to V. P. Bryan, 1777.

Fort Augusta, 10th Sept, 1777.

Sir,

Your circular letter I received this day in regard of the first class of the Militia of this County to March out immediately, and tho whole of the other classes to hold themselves in Rediness, you may depend upon it, I will Exert myself to the utmost to have the Orders I Receive from the Executive Council put in Execution, Suppose at this present time the Inhabitants of this County is afraid of the Indians comeing down uppon our fronteers, as there has been a number of them seen about

fourty miles above the Great Island, and a Col. of our Militia one Cookson Long set off last Saturday with a party of men to know if they had any Hostile intentions, such a large party as was reported to him of Indians in a Body as two Hundred was enough to alarm that Part of the Country, I hope the report he brings Back may be favourable, as we are badly off in this County for want of arms and ammunition, as I informed Mr. Lowdon off, which is a member of the Council from this County, to endeavor to procure five Hundred stand of arms, which will be very much wanted in case we are invaded here by ye Savages.

I am Sir,

your most

Obedient Humb^e Servt

SAM'L. HUNTER.

Directed

To George Bryan, Vice presid^t of the Executive Council, Philada.
By Edward Stroud, Express.

JAS. HAMILTON TO SUP. EXEC. COUNCIL, 1777.

Mr. Hamilton being a Prisoner, on Parol, to the President and Council is under a very disagreeable suspence, as to what they may please to order concerning him; more particularly, in case they should think fit to remove him from his own House, against which he begs leave to remonstrate, for the following reasons, amongst many others that he might justly assign.

1. That he does not find himself charged with any crime, or suspicion of crime against the present Government, or the American cause in general, and is conscious, that none such can be justly imputed to him.

2. That he is far advanced in years, and his constitution much impaired by frequent distempers to which he is subject, from some of which, altho' he be lately recovered in a good degree; yet he finds himself still greatly weaken'd and relax'd so that, should he be seized with a relapse at any place out of the reach of good assistance, it might go near to endanger his life—besides that at his advanced years very few, even of the best constitutions are able to undergo much hardship or fatigue.

3. That he has large concerns which require his constant care, & attention, for want of which or of that of some person in whom he can confide, they must necessarily fall in to much confusion and disorder, and be liable to great plunder and imbezzlement, as well from

his own servants as from other wicked and ill-disposed people about the town.

If, nevertheless the Government is determined upon his removal, he begs to be indulged in the following particulars, all which have been lately granted to others in the same circumstances, by the Board of War, with the approbation of the hon'ble Congress, namely to Mr. Penn, & Mr. Chew.

1. That he may chuse his place of residence for the present with the Councils approbation.

2. That he may have a reasonable time of notice to prepare for his departure, &c.,

3. That he may have leave to appoint his Nephew William Hamilton to reside in his House, and superintend his affairs during his absence, with the governments protection to the said Wm. Hamilton and to Mr. Hamiltons effects.

The last article, it so much imports Mr. Hamilton to be assured of, as that without it, he cannot take any one step towards the settlement of his affairs, so necessary before his departure, in case that measure should be resolved on; It so happening, by the unfortunate dispersion of his nearest friends and connections, that the said William Hamilton is the only one left, on whom he can depend to take care of his effects in his absence, and to save them from destruction, and as he can never believe, that the President and Council, by having secured his person intended so great an injury to his private fortune as the refusal of his request must amount to, He therefore hopes they will be pleased to grant it.*

Lewis Nicola to Secretary Matlack, 1777.

Wednesday afternoon.

Sr,

Mr Nesbit & some other Gentn of the Light Horse have told me that the Council intended the Gentn in the Lodge should go by the way of Reading, &, if I recollect right something of that nature was mentioned in Council, when I was present this morning, as my orders are contrary, if it is so intended I should be glad of further instructions.

The Gentn in the Lodge have requested that I should represent to his Excely & the Council that two waggons are insufficient for the baggage of twenty-two persons, especially as some of them propose taking their beading & also some provisions, as they apprehend the Taverns on the road may not be prepared for so large a company.

I take the liberty of applying to Council in this manner, appre-

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 303, & answer of Council, p. 613, this Vol.

hensive that such frequent personal attendance might be troublesome and interrupt business of more importance.

I am Sr,

your most obedt servt,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esqr.

SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO JAMES HAMILTON, 1777.

Philadelphia, 11th Sepr, 1777.

Sir,

I have communicated to the president your Message & memorandum.* Council have considered them & however unwilling they be to disturb a Gentleman circumstanced as Mr. H. is, they think it advisable you should, to prevent the greater inconvenience of an hasty removal, leave Town without loss of time. They propose Easton, Bethlehem, or Reading as places where you might be comfortably accomodated. However, they do not absolutely fix on these Towns. I am sorry to tell you however, that unanswerable objections lie against the proposition of committing the Care of your affairs to William Hamilton, Esquire.

I am with great respect,

Your very hb'le servant,

T. M.

Directed,

To James Hamilton, Esqr.

MATTHEW IRWIN TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Philada., 11th Septemr, 1777.

Sir,

Your favr of 6th Inst I have just received. I am much obliged to your Excellency and Council for the offer of the quarter mastership for General Armstrong's Division, I shall always be ready to serve my Country in any department that I am capable of executing. I am ready to set out for Head quarters as soon as you are pleased to

* See page 612.

furnish me with a Commission, with which request you will give me such Rank as the nature of the office requires. Cash will also be necessary.

I am

Your Excellency's

most obd^t humb^le Servt,

MATH^w IRWIN.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thos Wharton, Esqr, President of the Honorable, The Supreme Executive Council, Philad^a.

PRESIDENT WHARTON TO GOVERNOR LIVINGSTON, 1777.

Philadelphia, 11th September, 1777.

Sir,

The necessity of supplying this state with salt led the Gentlemen who were last year at the head of affairs here to construct a work on Toms River, in the state of New Jersey, for the promoting this service. This undertaking, from the extent of it & many other causes has been most strangely delayed, so that no salt has yet been made.

One principal cause of this has been the very frequent call of the workmen employed to serve in the Militia of the State, which circumstance, by breaking into the system of our business, at Toms River, is extremely vexatious, & must, I apprehend, if continued, prevent any salt being made for a long time to come. In this difficulty I apply to you for your advice & interposition. Perhaps your Legislature, upon considering the nature & intent of this service, would give some relief to the Workmen employed.

Or if this be difficult, I should be glad to be informed whether workmen hired here & sent over to your state would be liable to be taken to serve in the Militia. I beg your attention to this matter.

I am, Sir,

With respect,

Your most obed^t &

very humble Servt,

Directed,

To Govr Livingston.*

* See answer, page 621.

Supreme Executive Council to Lieutenants, 1777.

In Council, Philad^a, Sept. 12th, 1777.

Sir,

The Enemy is advancing rapidly towards the City, and unless every Man exerts himself, they will, most undoubtedly, accomplish their design of seizing it. Council have thereupon determined to call out the strength of the State to oppose them effectually, which they have no doubt can be done if the good people of the State act with vigor. I therefore earnestly request & command you to order out the militia of the third & fourth classes of your County with the utmost expedition, & march them without loss of time to The Swedes' Ford, unless you should receive other orders from Council or Genl Washington to rendezvous elsewhere. Urge every man to turn out on this alarming occasion, particularly those who are not in the classes now called out, & promise them that if they now step forward to free their bleeding country of these Ravages they shall be hereafter considered as having taken their Tour of Duty. Each one should bring with him his arms, accoutrements & Blankets which, should be appraised in order that the owner may receive the value in case they be lost.

I am Sir,

your very Hum. sv^t.

Bucks County, 3^d & 4th class.
Northampton, 3 & 4.
York, 3^d.
Chester, 4th.
Northumberland, 2^d
Also the 4th & 5th classes of Bucks, and 4th & 5th classes of Philad^a.
Ordered Septr 13, 1777.*

Supreme Executive Council to Col. Bradford, 1777.

Col. Bradford,

Sir,

Council think it is immediately necessary that 2 or more pieces of cannon, 12 pounders, with suitable ammunition, should be dispatched to the Swedes' Ford. It is hoped that the Militia of the County will assemble there; but this must not be depended on. A

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 302.

considerable corps of the City Militia, partly artillery, therefore, ought to be marched to the Swedes' Ford, without loss of time, & the above great Guns taken thither. Thus this important pass may be guarded till further dispositions can be made to stop the progress of the Enemy.

Your attention to the above, as Commanding Officer, is desired.

I am Sir, &c.

12th Sept. 1777.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, Sept. 12, 1777.

Resolved, That the president & supreme executive Council of Pensylvania be requested, in the name of this Congress, to call upon the militia of this city and parts adjacent to go forth immediately to reinforce the army under General Washington for the defence of this city.

Extract from the minutes,

CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.

James Dundas to Col. Matlack, 1777.

Billingsport, 13th Septemr, 1777.

Sir,

The people employed here begin to be very uneasy since we have heard that Chester is in possession of the Enemy. Should be glad to know the sense of the Council upon this matter immediately, as we are without a number of Troops to defend the Place, & in danger of being made Prisoners by the Enemy.

I am Sir,

Your very humt Servt.

JAMES DUNDAS.

Directed,

To Colonel Matlack.

Resolutions of Assembly, 1777.

In General Assembly of Pennsylvania.

Saturday, Sepr 13th, 1777, P. M.

Whereas in this Time of Danger it is absolutely necessary that the public monies belonging to the General Loan Office of this State, be removed to some place of security:

Resolved, therefore, That his Excellency the President and Council of this Commonwealth, be desired and Impowered to take the most speedy and effectual means to remove the said money to such place as they may think proper.

Extract from the minutes,

JOHN MORRIS, Jr,
Cler. Ass^y.*

General Washington to President Wharton, 1777.

Head Quarters, Germantown, 13th Sep^t, 1777.

Sir,

I was this morning honored with yours of Yesterday. I am pleased to find that you have ordered an additional Number of Militia to assemble at the Swedes Ford, at which and the other practicable passes for some distance up the River, I have directed small close Redoubts to be thrown up. This work will be executed under the command and direction of Genl Armstrong, who will also employ some of the Militia at present in the Field upon the same service.

I wish it were in my power to turn any part of my present force to the completion of the Works upon Delaware; but in our present Situation it cannot be afforded. Except General Howe can be checked upon land, the obstructions in the River will be of little avail; for if he can once totally defeat this Army, he will take possession of the Forts of course, and turn our own Guns upon our Ships, Gallies, and floating Batteries. In my opinion, the River would be sufficiently secured against any sudden attacks by Water only, if the City Artillery Companies were thrown into Fort Mifflin, and all the Vessels of War of different kinds drawn up behind the Chevaux de Frize. I have given orders to Col^l Penrose to overflow the Grounds upon Province Island, which will render it impossible

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 305.

for the Enemy to approach the Fort in the Rear, and raise Batteries against it.

As I am well apprized of the importance of Philadelphia, you may rest assured that I shall take every measure in my power to defend it; and I hope you will agree with me that the only effectual Method will be to oppose General Howe with our whole united Force.

I am this moment favoured with yours of this date, and thank you for your compliance to my request for removing the continental Troops who may be loitering in the City.

I have the Honor to be,

Sir,

Yr most obt Servt,

Go WASHINGTON.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Esq., Philadelphia.

Supreme Executive Council to Robert Levers, &c., 1777.

Philada, Septmr 13th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

Robert Lettis Hooper, Esqr, D. Q. M. G., some time since represented Council that it would be attended oftentimes with Considerable inconveniences, if he was, upon every occasion, obliged to apply to Council for Waggons when called upon by the Quarter Master General for the use of the army; and therefore desired liberty to make application to you for as many as were demanded without being obliged first to apply to Council; this was agreed to be partly on account of our Army being then in New Jersey. Council, however, find that it is not altogether so convenient for the Inhabitants of your County to be called upon by Mr Hooper, as that the application should come through Council. I have therefore to request that in future this may be the Case; and I have written a letter to him to this effect.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Very Humi Servant.

Directed,

To Robert Levers & William McNair, Esqrs.

General Washington to President Wharton, 1777.

Sir,

I must request you would immediately give some publick Notice to the Inhabitants of the City not to entertain or harbour the Soldiers in their Houses. And in order to oblige those who have straggled into Town to join their respective Corps, they are to deliver them up to the Patrols, which will pass thro' the Town in order to collect all Stragglers, & in Case of Refusal to turn out, the Inhabitants are desired to give Notice of them to the Patrols. The Necessity & Interest of the Service, as well as the Peace & good Order of the City will, I hope, ensure a ready Compliance with this Request, & a strict Attention to it on the part of the Inhabitants.

I am, Sir,

Your most Obed. &
very hble. Serv.,

G° WASHINGTON.

Head Quarters,
Sept. 13, 1777.

Directed,

To His Excell^y, Thomas Wharton, Jun., Esq., Presid^t of the Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Supreme Executive Council to Col. Nicola, 1777.

Sir,

It is the earnest request of his Excell'y General Washington that Council would give public notice to the inhabitants of the City, not to entertain or harbour the soldiers of his army in their houses; and in order that all soldiers, who may have straggled into Town, may be obliged to rejoin their respective Corps, the inhabitants are to be called on to deliver up all they know of, to the patroles, which the General will send through the streets to collect them.

As the good of the service at this important Crisis, requires that all possible attention should be given to his Excellency's requisition, Council hereby recommend to & order you to take the most effectual measures to publish to the inhabitants of the City & Suburbs, by beat of Drum the foregoing, to the end that none may plead ignorance; all who shall entertain, harbour or conceal any soldiers of the Continental Army, whether regulars or Militia or other persons connected with the army, will be prosecuted with the utmost severity according to Law.

It is needless to add that you will co-operate with the Gentleman of the Army in this service, in every respect; for your zeal & activity are unquestioned.

I am Sir

Yr very hum Serv.

Directed,

To Colt Nicola, Sept. 13, 1777.

JAMES HAMILTON TO T. MATLACK, 1777.

Saturday Morning.

Sir,

I send the Bearer for the pass for myself and baggage which you were pleased to promise me; and at the same time I desired a written protection for my House and effects during my absence, if the President and Council shall think fit to grant it, as I know was done in the cases of Mr. Penn & Mr. Chew.

My people have been running about all last night and this Morning, in search of a Cover'd Cart or Waggon, but without effect; I wish, if you know where one may be had, you would please to direct me.

I am Sr

your most humble

Servant,

JAMES HAMILTON.

Directed,

For Timothy Matlack, Esquire, Secretary &c.

SUP. EXEC. COUNCIL TO COMMODORE HAZELWOOD, 1777.

Philadelphia, 13th Sepr, 1777.

Sir.

Council find the temporary force that had stationed at the posts on the Delaware, has been withdrawn to join the Continental Army. It is to be supposed that this has not been done without good reason. However, it is very improper, that these places should be left naked. For the present they must be committed to your care. You are therefore desired to pay all possible attention to the Guns, Stores, & other concerns—at all places on the Delaware above Chester; and

to remove the artillery, amunition or other stores from any post whenever you shall find it necessary.

I am Sir,

Your very humble Servt.

Directed,

Commodore John Hazelwood, Esq.

Qualification of Chief Justice McKean.

I Thomas McKean Esquire do swear that I will be true and faithful to the Common-Wealth of Pennsylvania: And that I will not directly or indirectly do any act or thing prejudicial or injurious to the Constitution or Government thereof, as established by the Convention, &c.

I Thomas McKean Esquire do swear that I will faithfully execute the office of Chief Justice of the State of Pennsylvania, and will do equal right and justice to all men to the best of my judgement and abilities, according to law, &c.

I do believe in one God the Creator and Governor of the Universe, the rewarder of the good and the punisher of the wicked; and I do acknowledge the scriptures of the old and new testament to be given by divine inspiration.

THO. McKEAN.

The above oaths of Allegiance & of Office were taken, and the above declaration made and subscribed the first day of Septemr, 1777, before me, authorized thereto by virtue of a Dedimus Potestatem for that purpose specially directed, dated the 28th July last.

JOS: GARDNER.*

Governor Livingston to President Wharton, 1777.

Haddonfield, 13 Sept, 1777.

Sir,

I find myself honour'd with your Favour of the 11 Instant† on the subject of our calling into Service as part of the Militia of this State, a number of Workmen employed by the State of Pennsylvania at the Salt works on Tom's river. As our Legislature are about to revise our Militia Law, I have sent the house a Message on the subject, & doubt not from the Reasonableness of the Exemp-

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI. pp. 254, 304.

† See page 614.

tion you desire, it will be provided for in the new Militia Act. As the Law however at present stands, all such Workmen by their Residence in this State, will be considered as subjects of it, at least to the purpose of serving in the Militia.

I am,
Sir,
with great Respect,
your most humble S^vt,
WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Directed,
To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Jr., Esq'r, In Philadelphia.

ROBERT LEVERS TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Easton, September 14th, 1777.

May it please your Excellency,

This moment I had the Honor to receive by the Express a Letter from your Excellency directed to Mr. McNair & myself,* and shall lay the same at Court next Tuesday before the Justices, and the directions therein given will be most faithfully complied with.

Not many days ago Col. Hooper called on Mr. Creider, Waggon Master General for this County, for Forty Waggons to go to Springfield, in the Government of the Massachusetts Bay, for Fire Arms. Upon Col. Hooper's Application to me, after I had objected to his giving Orders to the Waggon Masters to impress Teams, as the Waggoners were very tardy & backward in coming in, and Mr. Hooper having acquainted me that he had represented in Council what your Excellency is pleased to mention, and the hastening these arms appearing to me a matter of the last consequence, I esteemed it to be my duty to give all the assistance in my power, as well for the compleating those Forty Waggons, as for One Hundred more Waggons Col. Hooper immediately after called upon this County for.

I must Confess I was diffident in the matter, but as the Calls seemd to admit of no delay, I was earnestly zealous that they might be expeditiously forwarded. I have the Honor to be

Your Excellency's
most obedient and most
humble Servant,
ROBERT LEVERS.

* See page 618.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Junr, Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sup. Exec. Council to Robert Levers, 1777.

Philadelphia, 14th September, 1777.

Sir,

For security in the present circumstances of affairs (let what will happen) Council send by the bearers hereof, John Snyder & Henry Bartholomews, a large Iron Chest, a Case, & a Barrell containing Books & papers of importance. They are recommended to your Care, & it is not doubted that you will pay all due attention to them.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedt Servt,*

Directed,

To Robert Levers, Esqr, in Easton.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, Sept. 14, 1777.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pensylvania immediately to appoint proper & discreet persons to take into possession any linens, blankets & other woolens, shoes, spirits, & other necessaries for the use of the army which they may find in any stores or warehouses in the city of Philadelphia, giving a certificate expressing the quantity and value, and to cause the goods so taken to be conveyed to some secure place to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 305, 307.

Extract of a Letter from General Washington, 1777.

Dated Buck Tavern, Septr 15th, 1777.

"I would beg leave to recommend in the most earnest manner, that some Board or Committee be appointed or some mode adopted for obtaining supplies of blankets for the troops, many are now without, and the season becoming cold, they will be injured in their health and unfitted for service, unless they are immediately provided with them; our supplies in this instance as in every article of cloathing cannot be too great, as there are frequent losses, not easily to be avoided. I would also observe that I think in point of prudence & sound policy, every species of provisions, should be removed from the city, except such as will be necessary to supply the present demands of this army. I have been told, there are considerable quantities in private hands, which should not be suffered to remain a moment longer than they can be conveyed away."

Deposition of Wm. Beckworth and Adam Laughlin, 1777.

Cumberland County ss.

The deposition of Wm. Beckworth and Adam Laughlin, who having been solemly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almity God, deposed & said that on Thursday the fourth Instant they traveled from Carlisle to Lisburn, and from thence they lodged at John Rankins Tavern, Friday they went to David Copland, who conducted these Deponents on Friday to Prunks Town opposite to Shellys Island in Sesquehannah, where after having taken a refreshment of Whiskey, Coopland gave them the following information there, Viz. that William Willis was a principal man and that he had a subscription of fifty men who had taken an oath to be true to one another, and that there was one Person Batwell who he beleved would be one of their Commanders and could raise 350 men, there was also a Scotch commander whom he called McDonald who could raise 100 men to surprise Carlisle in a Night who he said lived near the mouth of Croughans gap; that there was a Gent lived down below Lancaster that was a Serrif of Lancaster County, his name was John Farree, that could raise 800 men, then they went into Shellys Island, then he said that James Rankin near York Town who had a Mill and a Still had one or two thousand bushels of Wheat and Rye laid in his mill for Hows Army, could raise 500 men and he belived he would be one of his Chief Commanders, he said Daniel Schelly could raise 500 men, likewise Daniel Shelly added that if Howe would send about 1000 men or a few light Horse to Little York they would seize the stores and that town, and they would be ten thousand strong in about five Days and that the ground would be covered with

men to assist them, they were not afread easily to carry all York County before them because that all the Richest and fullest famelys in that County were on their side in a general way, and that he expected they would have most of the Lieut[s] of the County on their side because some of them were not willing to take this oath, the oath of Allegance meaning: David Copeland farther said that there was one Goaham a Drover at James Rankins, last Sunday, where he was also and two Strange Gentlemen with him who had come down the country, they were preparing things as fast as they could, Graham asked Copeland if he was ready to go to Hows Camp, he answered he was ready if he had only time to go home, but if they were in a hurry he would go immediately along with them; Graham turning to the other Gen[t] said, there is a man for you, I wish we had ten thousand such as him; Coopeland said that John Holmes, a store keeper in Carlisle, was ready to give them any intelegance how affairs are careying on in Carlisle, was a friend and that there were more friends in Carlisle, but they durst not appear because there were so many Whigs in it, that he, Copeland, had fourteen head of Cattle which were sent up to his care from Lancaster County, and keeping for Hows Army in a by place in the Woods.

M[r] Daniel Schelley said he would go or send to James Rankins and Parson Batwells and Copland was to go to Willm. Willeses before he would sleep to call them to meet on that Island on Satturday instant at eight o'clock in the morning to hold Council what was to be done, and that Geo. Fry of Middle Town and his clerk were Friends, and that Fry was to be sent for to hold Council for he had suffered a great deal for he had been in that Room four or five days when he was on his keeping, then they concluded to go to Geo. Fryes and on the River side, Daniel Shelly said he had five Cattle on the Island which he wished were in the Camp, (meaning Hows Camp) M[r] Schelley took a canoe and caried them to Lancaster shore, and they traveled to Geo Frys, where Col. Buckannan and his party were and took Daniel Schelley prisoner.

David Copeland further said that Daniel Schelley was rather cool of late in the affair but he belived he might be trusted, and farther saith not.

Sworn and subscribed the 6th Day of Septem., 1777, before us,

JOHN AGNEW, WILLIAM BECKWORTH.
JOHN CREIGH, ADAM LAUHLIN.

Copy.

The foregoing is a true copy compared with the original at Carlisle the 10th Septem[r], 1777,

by us

JOHN CREIGH,
GEORGE STEVENSON.

* See letter of Council to Jno. Creigh, &c., p. 628. Also Col. Rec. Vol XI. p. 307.

Charles Alexander to Robert Morris, 1777.

Dr Sir,

I have taken some pains to inspect the situation of Our Forts and Chevaux de frize, and do acquaint you as my Opinion that if some troops and Boats of Observation down the River is not, you may Sune expect to here of the Enemy having Billings Port in Possession and your strenth by water of no service, for one hundred men crossing at or below Chester at night have it in Possession by morning and and Command your Batteries and what other Vessels may be stationed there, your other fort and Pass may be surprized by the Like Plan, and be Asured that they have their Servants amongst us, your city will much sooner be in their hands if Attention is not given to the Vessels by some Person of Knowledge.

I am
With much Respect,
Yr most Obt Hble Servt,
CHARLES ALEXANDER.

Delaware Frigate off Billings Port,
Septr 15th, 1777.

Directed,

To The Honble Robert Morris, Esqr, Philadelphia.

[In case Mr Morris is not in Congress, Mr Duer begs Mr Duane to peruse and pay attention to this Letter.

Indorsed,

From Capt Alexander, Septr 15 1777.

Supreme Executive Council to President of Congress, 1777.

In Council,
Philada Septr 15, 1777.

Sir,

Council having considered the resolve of Congress of yesterday, respecting the taking into possession linens, blankets & other woollens, Spirits, &c., and are of opinion that this business may be conducted with more propriety by the purchasing Commissary under an Order from the Board of War. The Council find themselves so exceedingly pressed with Business that it is not in their power to give the necessary attention to that resolve. Council, however, do not object to

the measure, as it is judged necessary by Congress. I beg leave to mention I am well informed the owners of Spirits & other goods will cheerfully part with them, and are waiting to be called upon.

Directed,

To hn'ble Jn° Hancock, Esqr.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, Septm^r 16th, 1777

Resolved: That the President and supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania be informed of general Washington's desire that the provisions in this City should be removed to a place of safety, reserving only what may be necessary for the use of the inhabitants and for the army under his command; and that the President and Council be desired in the name of this Congress to take the most speedy & effectual measures to have the same carried into Execution—also that the President & Council be requested to exert the most vigorous efforts to obtain from this City as many Blankets as possible and with the greatest expedition; as the general represents many of the soldiers to be without Blankets, and that their health will be much exposed by remaining so.

By order of Congress.

JOHN HANCOCK, Presid^t.

President of Congress to Supreme Executive Council, 1777.

Philad^a, Septr 16th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

From the enclosed Resolve you will perceive, that Congress concurring in opinion with General Washington, that the Provisions in this City should be removed to some Place of Safety, except only such as may be necessary for the use of the Inhabitants, and the Army under his Command, have directed me to request in their Name, you will take the most speedy and effectual Measures to have the same removed agreeably to his Desire.

The unhappy Situation of many of the Troops for want of Blankets, has induced the Congress earnestly to entreat you will exert yourselves to collect in this City all the blankets you possibly can for their Use.

I enclose to you an Extract of the General's Letter to Congress on this Subject, and have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

your most obed. &

very hble. Serv.

JOHN HANCOCK, Presid^t

SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO ALEXANDER NESBITT, 1777.

Philadelphia, 16th Sept^r, 1777.

Sir,

Council are not well informed how Mr Chief Justice McKean came to issue Writs of habeas corpus* for the prisoners under your care; but are clear that you have acted right in not proceeding to East-Fallowfield; a place too near the Enemy. But the Assembly has put the matter out of debate. This day, they passed An Act to suspend the habeas corpus, & indemnify the Council & all acting under them, in the Case of Messrs Pemberton's & the rest. Council are getting a Certified copy of it; this you may deliver with the prisoners, to the Lieu^t of Berks, & a request from Council to send them forward without delay. I am sorry to find you have had such unexpected Trouble,

I am,

S^r.

(G. B. vp.)

To Mr Alex^r Nesbutt, Esqr,

SUP. EXEC. COUNCIL TO JNO. CREIGH, &C., 1777.

Philadelphia, 16th Sept^r., 1777.

Sir,

Mr Stephenson has layed before Council an affidavit† taken before you by Willm. Beckworth & Adam Laughlin, concerning a discovery of treasonable designs, &c., conspiracy formed by James Rankin & others. He has also given us some further verbal accounts of those people. Upon consideration, it is agreed that if Daniel Shelley, who

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 308.

† See Col. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 307. See also page 624 of this Vol.

is in custody, will really & candidly become a publick witness, & give evidence for the State, so as his accomplices be convicted, he will be considered as meriting his pardon, & that he shall have it from Council. But he must not be bailed or enlarged before tryal. Besides, he must immediately enable you to arrest the rest. It is to be wished that Rankin were apprehended; may it not be hoped this has already been done.

Congress & Council join in opinion that all possible industry be used in finding out & arresting the villains who have been scheming the public ruin. Your industry I am assured of. And to strengthen y^r hands, observe, that this day assembly passed an act to suspend the right to bail, by wch suspicious persons may more easily be detained without full Evidence.

I am,

Gent.

Y^r most obed^t Servt.

Directed,

To John Creigh and John Agnew, Esq^rs., Carlile.

When you examine Daniel Shelly be very particular, and take his examination and confession on oath in writing, which he should sign, and send a copy to Council.

Sup. Exec. Council to Lieut. of Chester Co., 1777.

In Council, Philadelphia, Sep^t. 17, 1777.

As the enemy is in the heart of this state, every possible exertion becomes absolutely necessary, in order to repell their force and put a stop to their ravages, Council have ordered that the fifth class of your militia be sent into the field with the utmost expedition. I therefore order & expect you will without a moments delay, and with a spirit & vigor which the occasion must inspire in the breast of every real patriot, use every means in your power to send this fifth class into the field as well equipped as possible. They are to join the nearest brigade of our militia, and you are to send forward the companies as fast as they can be formed.

relying on your activity & zeal,

I remain,

yours, &c.

Directed,

To Rob. Smith, Esq., Lieut. of the County of Chester.

Council to Committee for Removing Provisions (or Fifty), 1777.

Philad^a. Septem^r 17th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

I beg leave to remind you of the absolute necessity of the immediate removal of the Provisions in this City and suburbs to a place of safety. On this subject Council has received a letter from his Excellency General Washington, pressing in the strongest terms that this business may not be delayed, and that no more provisions may be suffered to remain in and about this City than what may be necessary for the use of the Inhabitants and for the army under the Command of Genl Washington.

I am, Sirs,

Your Very Hum. Servant.

Indorsed,

To Committee of Fifty.

Directed,

To the Gentlemen appointed to remove Provisions from the City.

Sup. Exec. Council to Pres. of Congress, 1777.

In Council, Philadelphia, Septr. 17, 1777.

Sir,

Council have before them the Resolves of Congress of yesterday, concerning the removal of provisions from the City of Philadelphia, & the obtaining of Blankets within the same for the use of the army. They have also copy of the Generals Letter on these subjects. The importance of both requisitions is seen & acknowledged.

As to the first, Council find themselves aided by the Legislature of this state, & can with propriety & authority endeavour to perform what is necessary; they, therefore, readily undertake it. But as to the other, the taking of Blankets from the citizens, they would observe, that they are legal Magistrates acting under a fixed Constitution, & that however inclined they may be, from the Ideas of self-preservation & necessity, to strain the powers of government, at this Crisis, to the present exigence, they apprehend that such apparent intrusion upon the private property of individuals will be unavoidably resented, as a grievance arising from the Constitution under which they act, & that it will greatly weaken & disable the Council from performing essential services within their proper sphere. They recollect that the late Council of Safety, a body created by necessity, & acting with unsettled powers, found themselves equal to such business in a former difficulty. But this Council are very differently

circumstanced. They, therefore, wish that the Gen[l], by a Committee, as his Letter proposes, or otherwise, would order & perform all things of an extraordinary nature, which the preservation of the state & the general interest require, without involving the regular & ordinary powers of Government therein. This course was last winter taken, as they understand, in a neighbouring state, without any evil Consequence, why may not the same be born with here?

It only remains to be remarked, that very large Collections of Blankets have been heretofore made for military purposes in the City, & that many of the able inhabitants have removed from it, circumstances which greatly lessen the prospect of procuring supply, but which deserve attention in this business. Perhaps some parts of the County may afford a contribution full as easily. Chester County in particular, is well stocked. Some persons of good judgment think 2000 Blankets may be had there. If Gen. W. were advised of this, the proper steps might be taken. The General is now there & may take the steps he finds necessary.

It is desired that you will lay these observations before Congress, & in behalf of the Council of Pennsylvania, request their attention & consideration of them. You may assure Congress that the members of this Board unanimously are devoted to the Common Cause, and anxious to contribute every caution in their line, or that may be thought expedient for them to make in the present emergency.

I am

Sir,

Your most obed[t]. hum. Serv[t].

Directed,

To the h'nble John Hancock, Esq.

Col. L. Nicola to President Wharton, 1777.

Sir,

I have this minute received your Excellencies Letter, & am to inform you that by Gen. Woodfords approbation, I propose having a Court Martial in the gaol to morrow morning to examine every military prisoner there, in order to send such as may be safety to the army, & such as cannot be trusted by land to lend to the State navy board for the use of the gallies, that no hands, that can be useful should be idle at this juncture. I have the honour to be with respect your Excellencies,

most humb[e] &

obed[t] Serv[r]

LEWIS NICOLA.

Sept 18th, 1777.

Directed,

To His Excellency the President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Col. Jacob Morgan to President Wharton, 1777.

Reading, September 18th, 1777.

Sir,

I rec'd your Excellencies order of the 10th Instant for receiving certain Prisoners therein mentioned, by John Old, Esq'r., and the removal of them from hence to Staunton in Virginia. Also your orders of the 12th for calling out the 3d & 4th Class of ye militia which I'm in hopes will be ready to march soon, but we are badly off for want of arms. There's at present a great quantity of powder & other stores belonging to the States in this town, and there are two Companys now out of said third and fourth Classes mounting guard over said Stores, the people of the Town are vastly uneasy at having so much Powder here, and, unless it be very well guarded, that uneasiness will increase to a very great Degree; as Fire happening to the House were the Powder is Lodged would tear the Town to pieces and destroy the whole Body of Inhabitants—many Persons of the Town above 53 years of age would make part of a guard, if taken into Pay, which would render it easy to send so many more of the militia as would otherwise be requisite for such guard. The Continental Press and Medicinal Store also requires some guard.

I would be glad of your Excellency's direction in this matter. I received also this morning your Excellencys order for the Removal of said Prisoners to Winchester, which shall be Punctually Obey'd.

I am

May it please your

Excell^y your Excellencys most

obed^t devoted hble Servt

JACOB MORGAN, L. B. C.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jr., Esq., President of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia.

☞ Express.

HENRY CHRIST AND OTHER JUSTICES TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Reading, Sept 18th, 1777.

Honorande Domine,

By Express orders from your Excellency We were informed that the third & fourth classes of this county are called out to join the army, Likewise informing you that a vast number of Ammunition is in the Town of Reading or near it, & that we have called 2 Company's of the said third & fourth Classes to guard these places (not forgetting the continental Treasurer,) & have been here about 3 weeks or better in actual service. Now Mr. Morgan the Lieutenant of the County says that he has orders for said classes to go to the camp as we well know, but says that he will take away these two companys & likewise says that he has no orders nor dare not call other guards to relieve these, In the mean time we can not keep these stores here without a guard, therefore requesting your opinion of the matter wether these guards that are here are to remain untill there time is expired or other guards to be called to releive them. We should have wrote to you some time past but had very little time to do the same.

We remain your
most obedient Humble Sv^ts
HENRY CHRIST
JACOB SHOEMAKER. } Justices.

Directed,

To The Hon'ble Thomas Wharton, jr., President of ye Common Wealth of Pennsylvania.

℘ Favour of
Mr. Christem

These express on public service.

R. McCALESTER, TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Hanover Town, Sept 21st, 1777.

Sir,

Yesterday I was Hon'd with y^r Letter of the 12th Instant & have sent expresses to each Batalion in the County, as to arms we are at a loss for, as the last year the arms was Nearly all taken to Campe, where they mostly remained.

The Nonosasiators, then was mostly all disarmed, our situation at present is such, that beleve we shant be able to send out many arms

but shall do all Possable, and shall send forth as many men and arms as in my power. Hearwith y^r Exelency will receive a list of the officers of this County w^h their Rank, the best I am able to get, Maney ye see are blank—which should—Comishions Com blank hearfor those, perhaps we may git some persons somway sutable to except them—as all those Blanks are people who Refuseth to hold Comishions in the Militia, Either by Electing them or otherwise, Many tryals hath been made in those places to no purpos. I hope they May be sent by the bearer, Mr. David Cantler, as many of the offisers are uneasy—and the people perhaps w^d obey them better.

I am w^h Due

Respect y^r Excelencys

Most obedient Hu^bl Servant

RD. M^cCALESTER.

Directed,

To His Exelency Thos Wharton, Esq., President of the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

☞ Express
David Cantler,

JOHN CAROTHERS TO WILLIAM HENRY, 1777.

Carlisle, Sept^r, 25th, 1777.

Sir,

Two of the Justices of this County have informed me that in the Course of the Examination of a Witness, touching a Plot or Combination of several People to destroy the publick Magazines at Lanc^r, York and Carlisle, the Revd Thomas Barton of Lanc^r, Clerk is named as one at least privy to that conspiracy. He is also charged with carrying on Correspondence with the Enemies of this State, and of the United States of America.

I am persuaded this intelligence ought more properly to have been communicated to Bartram Galbreath, as your County Lieut., but least he should not be at home, I have been advised to communicate to you, Sir, as one of the Justices of Lancaster County, tho' I am not personally acquainted with you. I make no Doubt but that you will cause Mr Barton to be secured in such manner as your prudence shall direct, on rec^t of this Letter.

I am S^r,

y^r very H^ble Servt,

JN^o CAROTHERS,

Lieut. of C. C.

Directed,

To William Henry, Esquire, Lancaster.

George Stevenson to William Henry, 1777.

Carlisle, 25th Sepr, 1777.

Dear Sir,

Inclosed you will receive a Letter from John Corrithers, Esqr, our County Lieut., by wch you will know that Mr Barton's Name is brought on the Carpet as being privy to the Tory Plot, and corresponding with our enemies.

Mr Batwell is also accused of being a principal Leader. A party of Militia have taken him, and I suppose by this Time he is lodged in York Goal. It is a Pity that men who have been employ'd in preaching the Gospel of Peace should be found engaged in such base Plots.

Have you done any Thing towards securing David Copeland, the man I spoke of to you at Lancaster? I wish he were secured; he is a material Witness—having been much employed carrying letters & Messages among the Conspirators. I shall be glad to know what you shall have done in Consequence of Mr. Carrithers's Letter.

I am Sr,

yr most Hble Servt,

GEO. STEVENSON.

Directed,

To William Henry, Esquire, Lancaster.

Favoured by Col Culbertson.

William Paca to President Wharton, 1777.

Sir,

Mr. James Tilghman informs me that he is obliged by the Forms of his Parole to return to Philada within a month or sooner if called upon. Conceiving from the great Change of Circumstances since the taking of his Parole, that his return may be extremely hazardous and distressing to himself & Connections, he is very solicitous to be indulged with a longer continuance in these parts. I have no doubts at all but Mr. Tilghman will punctually fulfill every engagement he has made, and do not apprehend the Indulgence he requests can be productive of any injurious Consequences. Indeed under our present

Circumstances his stay here will be more a compliance with the spirit of his Parole, than his Return according to the Terms of it.

I have the honor to be

Sir, Your most

obt Servt,

WM. PACA.

Chester Town, Maryland, 26th Sept. 1777.

Directed,

To The Honble. Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

GENERAL JOHN ARMSTRONG TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Camp at the Trapp, 26th Sepr, 1777.

Dear Sir,

I can't think of leaving this place without giving you a line, the design of which is rather as a mark of friendship & duty than to give you that intelligence I cou'd wish in the military line, as a detail of the various manuvres of ours & the Enemies army for several days past, is at present impracticable. Two points I shall touch in the laconic way; How the Enemy has passed the army to Philada without impediment, and what we think of doing next. A fient of the Enemy, in rapidly moving a part of their body up the Scuilkill, by French Creek, led the General to apprehend they designed to cross above us, & turn our right wing; to prevent this he marched high on this side on the Swamp road when the same night, next morning they crossed at Fatland fort, and proceeded on to Sweeds ford, also by another road, I think, called the Manotany, so that before full intelligence of their crossing came to head quarters, or rather before it gained credit, they were thought, in Council, to be at too great a distance to be harrassed on the rear by fatigued troops, by these means we have got but a few prisoners.

The General has sent Expresses to Commodore Hazelwood to send 200 men to strengthen the Garrison of Fort Island with a French Barron to take the Command of that post, wishing greatly to prevent a junction of their naval & land forces. I think he has also wrote Governor of the Jersey. We Expect several reinforcements tho' Mr Douglas and Waynes already joined the latter thro' a late misfortune is much smaller than we expected—there are still farther reinforcements expected—we new draw nearer to the Enemy whom we hear are encamped on Chestnut Hill—two or three days rest are thought necessary for our Troops, as I'm persuaded the General

designs to attack as early as he reasonably can—the Event will probably be great either way! Of the Militia I chuse to be silent, and see what another tryal may produce. I fear the Lieut's will not fill up near as fast as the others go away—I have sent to several of them—Col. Byard will give you the news at large.

I am sir, with great respect,

your most obed^t humbl^e serv^t,

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thos Wharton, Esqr, President of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

INSTRUCTIONS COMMODORE HAZELWOOD TO CAPTAIN CHA'S ALEXANDER, 1777.

Off Fort Miffling, September 27th, 1777.

Sir,

In consequence of the Council held this day, you are hereby ordered to proceed with your ship, ship Montgomery, & the Fly sloop, all under your command, Up to the City of Philadelphia, & there to do Every Thing in your Power, with the Force with you, to annoy the Enemy should they attempt to Come in to our City, & should you see them preparing any works for Cannon or Hauling Cannon near the river, you are in that case to send a Flag on shore & warn them if they do not disist in making any preparations of Fortifying any where, that you will in that case fire on the City, but as a repetition of orders is on this occasion unnecessary, But must leave the Conduct & management of the whole To your prudent & effectual management; you are to take all Boats, Flatts, Shallops, & any Craft whatsoever From the shores, & send them down to Fort Island—do not neglect this as its a material matter for us, & suffer no Boat or Craft whatsoever To Pass or repass to or from the City, & Burn or Distroy any that can not be got away.

I Conclude & am sir,

your hum^ble serv^t,

JOHN HAZELWOOD.

Directed,

To Char^les Alexander, Esqr, of the Ship Delaware.

Demand of Records.

Thomas Smith, Esqr.

Sir,

I hereby demand of you the Books, Records and other Papers and Seals of Office of the office of Prothonotary, Register of Wills, Recorder of Deeds, and Clerk of the Orphan's Court for the County of Bedford.

I am Sir, yours &c.,

ROBERT GALBRAITH.

Bedford, September 29th, 1777.

Directed,

To Thomas Smith, Esqr, late Proth^{y}, &c.

Deposition of Robert Galbraith, &c., 1777.

Bedford County ss.

On the twenty ninth Day of September, in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven, Before me, the subscriber, one of the Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid, Personally appeared, Robert Galbraith of the Town of Bedford, Esqr, and William Parker of Colerain Township, in the County aforesaid, Esqr, and being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith that on the Day of the date hereof, they, these Deponents, waited upon Thomas Smith, Esquire, late Prothonotary, &c., of the County of Bedford, and the said Robert Galbraith demanded (in writing by delivering into his, the said Thomas Smith's Hands, an original Paper, of which the annexed is a true Copy,) of the aforesaid Thomas Smith, the Books, Records, and other Papers and Seals of Office, of the offices of Prothonotary, Register of Wills, Recorder of Deeds, and Clerk of the Orphan's Court for the County of Bedford. To which the said Thomas Smith verbally answered that the sentiments of the People were to be taken for a new Convention, and when that was known if there was a Majority he would then immediately give them up, or if the Deponent, Robert Galbraith, would call the Township Committee & they should say he, the said Thomas Smith, should give them up, he, the said Thomas Smith, immediately would. And farther these Deponents say not.

ROBERT GALBRAITH,
WILL^{m} PARKER.

Sworn the Day and Year afs'd.
Before me.
JAMES MARTIN.

Supreme Executive Council Col. Jno. Carothers, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, October 1st, 1777.

Sir,

A petition signed by Capt. Brady and his company of Militia of your county setting forth their situation with respect to the classing of its member has been laid before the council, and the same having been considered, they are of opinion that the lots drawn by the said company at first is according to the law for regulating the militia of this state, however, it may differ from the practice of some other companies, and therefore order that the two first classes of this company do immediately march and join General Washington without further delay, and that the third Class march to Carlisle to Guard the stores there, according to your direction therein. The council confide in your firmness and prudence in directing this business, in which you will receive the ready assistance of Capt Brady.

Directed,

To Col. John Carothers, Lieut of Cumberland Co.

General D. Roberdeau to President Wharton, 1777.

York Town, Octr 1, 1777.

Sir,

General Gates's letter, with enclosures to Congress ℔ express this day are referred to the Committee of Intelligence for publication and will be sent this afternoon to Lancaster for that purpose, therefore transcripts are less necessary, but I would furnish them for the satisfaction of Council, if I was not very unwell, as thereby they might be furnished with the news a few hours sooner.

The Express gives a verbal account that two spys were descried by some Continental Troops round our Genl Clinton's Quarters habit'd like unto the British Soldiers for the very purpose. The spys asked when they landed they were told the day before? where Gen. Clinton was, for they had something to communicate, they were told they should be conducted to him. When they came into his presence, with much surprise, they said he was was not the Gen. Clinton they enquired for, he replied he could do their Business and accordingly ordered them be hanged in an hour, but upon discovering some important intelligence they were respited. In consequence of this Information &c. Gen. Clinton, Gov. Clinton and Gen. Putman were suddenly in motion, the number of Troops under their command or the number of the Enemy or their movements, are all unknown. A singular anecdote I must not omit. One of the spys when discovered swallowed a small silver Ball, which he was made

to disgorge by the immediate application of an emetic, it contained intelligence from the British officer Clinton, who commanded at the Highlands, to Gen[l] Burgoyne. These anecdotes will not be published, nor are they to be depended on, nevertheless, as I believe them, they are offered for your amusement.

I am with most respectful salutation to the Council,

Sir,

Y[r] very ob[t] hum[e] Ser[t]

DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

Directed—To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, J[r], Esq[r], President of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

JACOB S. HOWELL TO PRESIDENT WHARTON.

Easton, October 1st, 1777.

Sir,

I wrote you this morning in a great hurry. Mr. Levers informs me he has business with Council & intends seting off to morrow morning & as I wait here only for the direction of your Excellency & the Council, could wish that some instructions were sent to me respecting the publick papers under my care. Mr. Levers informs me that Waggons shall be procured at a very short notice for the conveyance of the papers.

I have the honor to be with great respect,

Your Excellencys most obedient

& very Humble Servant,

JACOB S. HOWELL.

On public service.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Jun., Esq[r], Lancaster.

℔ fav[r] Mr. Levers.

RICHARD MCCALESTER TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

York Town, 1st of Oc[r], 1777.

Sir,

The Money I Recd som time past is Expended in Raising the first Class of Militia, This backwardness ocationed the hireing of Numbers I have not been able to Collect the Money Expended nor aney of the fines since for want of the assistance of Magistrates, there is now as maney Qualefied as will perhaps ans[r] that purpose, and we are beginning to put the Matter to trial.

In the mean time the second and third Class is wanting and allmost no money not Exceeding £100, should yr Excellency thinke proper to send a supply of Money by the bearer, Mr. Thomas Armor, we should be inabled in the Meantime to forward those other Classes. The Commissions For the offesers is much wanting, should be Exceeding Glad Could they be allso Forwarded by the Bearer, as Maney of the offesers Complain much for want of them, & Even seem onwilling to do any duty till they Receive them.

I this Moment Recd yr Excelences order Respecting the Gaurd for the Prisoners to Virginia, To which shall pay Particular attention.

I am with due Respect yr
Excellencies Most obt
Hubl Servant,
RICHd McCALESTER.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq., President of the Executive Council of the State of Pennsilvania, Lancaster.

☞ Express by Mr. Tho. Armor.

James Tilghman to Sup. Exc. Council, 1777.

Chester Town, in Maryland, Octr 1, 1777.

Sir,

I wrote you by two Opportunities to obtain an extension of my permission to stay here, which you told me might be had, if there should be no reason to conclude it would be more likely that I might be in Genl. Howes way than when I obtained the Permission. I have as yet received no answer, which I attribute to the Confusion of the times and the difficulty of communication. To have attempted going to Philadelphia (as things were circumstanced) at the conclusion of my Month, in complyance with the letter of my permission, I thought would be rather a departure from the spirit and intent of that and my Parole. However I advised with Mr. Paca, of the Congress, who by the Governor's order, has the direction of affairs in these parts, and who was clearly in my Sentiment, and has done me the favor to write to the Council to that effect. I shall therefore remain here, agreeable to that part of my Parole which allows me to reside here, and hope the Council will give me their approbation.

I am yr most obt Servt,
JAMES TILGHMAN.

Directed,

To Colo Matlack, Secretary of the Executive Council of Pennsilvania.

General Armstrong to President Wharton, 1777.

Camp at the Trapp, 1777.

Sir,

This morning the whole army moves about six miles nearer to Philad^a, looking out for the more particular Position of the Enemy, whether they will come out to us, as many think, is yet uncertain. The General wou'd rather make than receive an attack, provided circumstances shou'd favour it. The Enemies numbers doubtless exceed what we have formerly believed, we have various reinforcements, but not half what has been Expected, perhaps the General will acquaint Congress with the strength of his army, but secresy is enjoined on his Council. Our Continentals however in my Opinion fall short of the numbers of the Enemy. We have now but about 15 hundred of the State Militia, & in a few days must fall far short of that number.

I am, in great haste,

Most Respectfully yours,

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

P. S. Were it not for the object so near in View I shou'd send some intelligent Officer up to Council.

Directed,

To Thomas Wharton, President of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

By Capt Crean.

Address of Council of Safety, 1777.

In Council of Safety,

Lancaster, Octr 1777.

Friends & Countrymen:

We are again called upon by General Washington for a Reinforcement of Militia, & have complied with his Requisition by ordering out two additional Classes, together with such Delinquents of the former Classes & Volunteers as can be prevailed with to join them.

Tho' we are sorry to say that our former Calls have not been complied with on the part of the Militia with all that alacrity we could wish to have found, owing, perhaps, to the discouraging appearance of publick affairs; yet if people will now consider the true Situation of Matters they will find abundant Reasons to rouse & animate them to more spirited Exertions. Our Brethren to the Northward,

from the joint operations of the Continental Troops & Militia, have most effectually crushed the attempts of the Enemy on that Quarter by subduing the Army of General Burgoyne, reducing the posts in his possession, & making him & all those under his Command prisoners of War. General Howe has received such a Shock at German-Town that he has thought it advisable to withdraw his Troops within the Confines of Philadelphia; & on the other Hand, our Fort & Shipping on the Delaware have hitherto repulsed every Attempt of his Fleet & Army to possess themselves of the River. It is with great Satisfaction, we add, that by the last advices, they have been defeated with Loss & Disgrace in their late attempt to carry the Fort in Delaware by storm. If, then, we exert the Force we are Masters of, his Army, cut off from their shipping & confined to the narrow Bounds of the City, must be speedily brought to the same Distress, which reduced Burgoyne to the Necessity of surrendering. With the Overthrow of this Army, we may expect to put a speedy & honourable End to this cruel War. The good people of this Commonwealth, are therefore now most earnestly exhorted to make this last Effort, with a Vigour of Resolution worthy of themselves;—worthy of Freemen.—When the British Arms last Winter threatened to overwhelm us, the Militia of Pennsylvania nobly stemmed the Torrent; now that a brighter prospect opens, we trust that they will not be wanting; that they will not omit to share in the Glory of putting the last Hand to the Establishment of our Freedom.

Should we at this Time rest supinely, & thus suffer our Enemy to escape or revive, we have the melancholy prospect of a long continued War before us, & of seeing from Year to Year scenes of Desolation & Cruelty; our friends slaughtered; our Fields laid waste; & our Families left a prey to a barbarous & insulting Foe.

Let not any flatter themselves, that by tamely folding their Arms, if the Enemy should at last prevail, their Lives & property will be secured. We know how little Faith can be put in the specious promises contained in the proclamations of the Enemy; & even that little protection which was promised, upon their taking possession of Philadelphia, has been withdrawn, by a new proclamation, from all those who had not already complied with the terms of the former ones. Thus they deny to us the power of living, even in Slavery, unless they can also pillage us of our goods & Land.

But, with the aid of Heaven, we have Strength sufficient if we will only exert it; the Militia of the neighbouring States are exerting themselves to assist us, & all parts of the Continent will contribute to our aid, if we will but join in helping ourselves: Let us then rise like Men in Earnest; let us not fall behind the other parts of the Continent, but let the Force of Pennsylvania be felt & acknowledged, as it often has been by the Enemy; let us strike this last Blow with such Effect, that we shall not need to strike again. Then shall we forever bless the Day when we nobly rose & drove the Enemy from our Country:—and our children's children shall bless us.

Hoping & believing that you will thus act, we commend you to the protection of the Almighty, & look forward to the speedy prospect of returning Victory & peace, when every man shall sit under his own Vine & Fig tree, & none shall make him afraid.

Col. Bradford to Pres't Wharton, 1777.

Sir,

This Day week going to Philad^a, I found a number of Light Horse of the Enemy at Frankford and narrowly escaped being taken. Finding I could not get in, I set off for the army the next morning, and after I got there consulting General Potter tho't it most advisable to cross Delaware and get into Billingsport, which I accordingly did. I there found Col. Will of the 4th Batt^n with about 100 men, & Cap^n Massey Company of Artillery which was reduced by desertion to 12 men, after I got in was reinforced by 100 Jersey Militia & next day with about 50 more. The first of October the Enemy landed a number of men near Raccoon Creek; various were the accounts of their number, tho' mostly agreeing that not less than 500, but many made them 1000. We kept a good look out that night, and dispatched 60 of the Jersey men in the afternoon to harrass them if they were on their march, but they did not move that Evening. The 2^d of October General Newcome came before Day and told me he had a few Militia on the main Road with one Piece of Artillery and was going to harrass the Enemy, and drew off what Jersey Militia was at the Garrison to join his Body. Our Body was now very small. About 8 o'clock we heard a firing between the Enemy & General Newcome which continued but a short time—I got our People under arms, but could get no acc^t from General Newcome tho' Majors Marsh & Boys were sent off for that Purpose, but at last I had certain account that the Jersey had retreated and the Enemy were advancing to the Fort, on which I ordered the People into Boats and sent most of them to Fort Island, spiked up all the Cannon we could not carry off, and set the Barracks & Bake House on Fire, but the Dwelling House some how escaped—We took off all the Amunition—I stayed myself with Capt Robeson of the Continental Brig on shore for some more certain advice; about 12 o'clock the Enemy come on so close thro' a corn field that they were not more than 30 yards from us, and began to fire on us before our Boat put off the shore, we returned the fire with 6 muskets we had on board, and a Guard Boat we had with us also fired on them, and all got off, one man only being wounded. I am now at Fort Mifflin and in Council of all the Cap^s of the Fleet, this Day they requested that Capt Blewer, Capt Massey & myself would

remain here to act as Navy Board which I shall do. Two of our Galleys are reduced & laid by, the men having deserted. Last night Capt Montgomerys 1st & 2d Lieuts & 6 Privates deserted, and I believe if they could get off, the People on board the whole Fleet would desert, for their spirits are quite sunk. The Enemy ships are now coming up to Billingsport.

Your most H'ble Serv't,

Wm. BRADFORD.

Fort Mifflin, Octr 3d, 1777.

Directed,

On public Service.

To His Excellency Tho's Wharton, Esqr, President of the State of Pennsylvania at Lancaster.

Supreme Executive Council to Robert Levers, 1777.

Lancaster, October 3, 1777.

Sir,

Council have sent forward Mr. Snyder, their door keeper, to take in charge the papers belonging to Council and forward them to this place. Your assistance will probably be necessary, and I have no doubt of your immediate attention to this business.

I am, &c.,

T. W.*

Directed,

To Robert Levers, Esqr, Easton.

Genl. Armstrong to Pres't Wharton, 1777.

Camp near the Trapp, 5th Octobr, 1777.

Sir:

By a forced march of fourteen miles or upward, on Friday night, General Washington attacked about sunrise yesterday morning, the British & Foreign Troops encamped at Jerman Town, Vandurings & elsewhere toward the York Road. We marched by four different routes—those on the left did not arrive so soon as the Columnes on the Center & Right. The Continental Troops drove the principal part

* See Colon. Rec. Vol. XI., p. 314.

of the Enemy at Jerman Town full two miles; yet what I shall say a victory almost in full embrace was frustrated, but by what means cannot yet be easily ascertained. I think by a number of casualities, a thick fogg whereby not only our ammunition was expended without an object, but it's thought that our own Troops had been taken in an instance or two for reinforcements of the enemy, whereby a panic & retreat ensued, which the General could not prevent! Thus may it be said, thro' some strange fatality (tho' not the less faulty on our part,) that we fled from victory. Another reason was the time spent about Mr. Chew's house, where a number of the Enemy took sanctury, & from which a number of our people were killed & wounded. We can yet tell nothing perfectly of our loss, nor of that of the enemy. General Nashes thigh & the head of Major Witherspoon were, it's said, both taken away by one & the same Cannon Ball. I shou'd be glad to send you a Copy of Our Order of Battle, or attack, but have it not here. My destiny was against the various Corps of Jermans encamped at Mr. Vanduring's or near the Falls. Their Light Horse discovered our approach a little before sunrise; we canonaded from the heights on each side the Wissihickon, whilst the Riflemen on opposite sides acted on the lower ground. About nine I was called to joine the General, but left a party with the Coll. Eyers & Dunlap, & one field piece, & afterwards reinforced them, which reinforcement, by the by, however did not joine them, untill after a brave resistance they were obliged to retreat, but carried off the field piece, the other I was obliged to leave in the Horrenduous hills of the Wissihickon, but ordered her on a safe rout to join Eyeres if he shou'd retreat, as was done accordingly. We proceeded to the left, and above Jermantown some three miles, directed by a slow crossfire of Canon, untill we fell into the Front of a superior body of the Enemy, with whom we engaged about three quarters of an hour, but their grape shot & ball soon intimidated & obliged us to retreat or rather file off. Until then I thought we had a Victory, but to my great disappointment, soon found our army were gone an hour or two before, & we the last on the ground. We brought off every thing but a wounded man or two—lost not quite 20 men on the whole, & hope we killed at least that number, beside diverting the Hessian Strength from the General in the morning. I have neither time nor light to add but that I am respectfully yours.

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Directed,

The Honorable Thos. Wharton, Lancaster.

Resolutions of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, Oct. 6, 1777.

Resolved,

That so much of the resolution of the 23d day of March, 1776, as directs that the wages of seamen & mariners taken on board British merchant vessels be paid & deducted out of the prize money, be repealed, & made null & void.

Resolved,

That all masters, officers & mariners, & all subjects of the king of Great Britain, taken on board any prize made by any continental vessel of war be hereafter considered as prisoners of war, & treated as such; & that the seamen & mariners of such prize be confined in the goals or some other secure place in this state, to which the prize shall be carried; & it is recommended to the several states to consider & treat all captains, officers & mariners, & all subjects of the king of Great Britain, taken on board any prize made by any vessel fitted out by, or carried into any state by any privateer or letter of marque, as prisoners of war.

Resolved,

That it be recommended to the legislatures of the several states to pass laws, declaring that any person, his aider or abettor, who shall wilfully & maliciously burn or destroy, or attempt or conspire to burn or destroy any magazine of provisions, or of military or naval stores belonging to the United States, or if any master, officer, seaman, mariner, or other person intrusted with the navigation or care of any continental vessels, shall wilfully & maliciously burn or destroy, or attempt or conspire to burn or destroy any such vessel, or shall wilfully betray or voluntarily yield, or deliver, or attempt to conspire to betray, yield or deliver any such vessel to the enemies of the United States, such person, his aider or abettor, on legal conviction thereof, shall suffer death without benefit of clergy.

Extract from the minutes,

CHAS. THOMSON, Secy.

All printers are desired to insert & continue the foregoing resolutions in their public newspapers at least six months.

Col. Bradford to Pres. Wharton, 1777.

Fort Mifflin, October 7, 1777.

I wrote you a few Days ago informing of the Loss of Billingsport. The Troops that took Possession of that Place consisted of Highlanders, and Marines from the Men of War, about Thirteen or Fourteen Hundred in Number, by the most Intelligent People that I have spoke with. The 4th October, they embarked all their men but 300, after making some Efforts to remove or weigh the Chevaux de Frize, which I believe they could not Effect. Yesterday afternoon the Enemy Set Fire to all the Works & Houses that were left at Billingsport, and embarked the Men. In the Evening, Commodore Hazelwood went down and attacked the Ships very Smartly; they got under Way and fell down to Chester, where nine of them now lays. I was in Billingsport this morning, and every Thing that would take Fire is burnt, and most of the Ambrusers destroyed. The Commodore is now sending down a Scow to bring off the Iron Work that is there. Mr. Saml. Massey having a Sum of Money by him near this Place we have browed it and have ordered the Fleet to be paid their Month's Wages. Our Fire Ships are very badly off for Men; the Vesuvius Brig & Strumblo Ship have not one Hand; they are now stripped of their Rigging, &c., and ready for sinking in such Places as may be thought necessary, if the Enemy's Ships should attempt to come up; tho' I am of opinion they think they cannot possibly get thro' the Chevaux de Frizes at Billingsport. A prodigious Desertion has prevailed among the Galleys; a few nights ago, Capt. Montgomery lost Eleven Men; last Night, after the Action, Capt. Mitchel lost Twelve; Three other Galleys are so reduced that all their men will not Man One Galley. We are pretty well off for Cattle, and shall get some more on the Island this Day, and the Boats are just now going of to fetch six Waggon loads of Flour that is at Timber Creek Bridge. Capt. Blewer is gone up to General Washington for a few Days. I shall do all I can for the good of the Cause, and am

Your most obedient, H^ble^ Servant,

WM. BRADFORD.

P. S.—I am confident the Fleet cannot get up this River as we are now situated—Tho' should they get Red Bank, were we have not one Man, I do not know the Consequence.

Three Days ago the Men of War sent up a Flag to the Commodore, desiring him to give up the Fleet, and he should with his men have his Majesty's Pardon and be treated kindly. The Commodore sent him Word he should defend the Fleet to the last, and not

give them up, and was not afraid of all the Ships they could bring, and desired they would send no more such Flags.

Directed,

On Public Service. To His Excellency Thos. Wharton, Esq'r., President of the State of Pensylvania, at Lancaster.

MITTIMUS FOR MICHAEL IMMEL, 1777.

Penns^a Ss.

In Council, Lancaster, Octob^r 7, 1777.

Receive into your custody the body of Michael Immel of this burrough, and him safely keep until he shall be discharged by due course of law. The account which he gives of the escape of Brookes and McKenzie, two prisoners* in his custody, affording just grounds to suspect that he was aiding and assisting in the said escape. And for your so doing this shall be your sufficient Warrant.

, now in your Custody, appears by his own Confession to have negligently suffered Brookes, Yeoman, who was in the Custody of said M. Immel, charged with high Treason, & McK., also in the Custody of said Immel, as a prisoner of War, to escape & go at large, & whereas there is good reason to suspect that said M. Immel hath willfully permitted said B. & McK. to escape & go at large as aforesaid, contrary to his duty, these are therefore to commit said M. I. to your keeping in the common Goal of the County of Lancaster, to answer the premises, & to be Dealt with according to his demerits, & untill Council shall otherwise order concerning s^d M. I.

COL. BRADFORD TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

S^r,

I wrote you two Days ago. Yesterday we sent down to examine the Chevaux de Frize at Billingsport, and find that the two last that were sunk to stop up the Gap are remove higher up and put on one side, so that a Ship may warp thro'. A Ship & Brig are now preparing to be sunk in the Gap, which, if we can Effect, will stop the Channel. A large Fleet of Vessels are now as high as New Castle. Last Night a large Body of the Enemy came from

* See Col. Records, Vol. XI., p. 315.

Philad^{a}, and have erected a Battery near the mouth of Schuykill. Our Galleys fired at them in the Night and this Morning, but I believe with very little damage.

Your most H^{ble} Servt,

WM. BRADFORD.

Fort Mifflin, Octr 8th, 1777.

The Commodore is not under the least doubt of stoping the Channel, and if they should warp thro' he can destroy them.

Directed,

On public Service. To His Excellency Thos Wharton, Esqr, President of the State of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

Robert Levers to President Wharton, 1777.

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Jun'r., Esquire President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,

Sir,

As a member of the Commonwealth, and sincere friend to the cause of the United States of America, I conceive it to be my duty to lay before your Excellency the following Representation—

The Inhabitants of Easton express great anxiety and uneasiness at Maj. Daiken, & Maj. Edminston, Prisoners of War, remaining in that town, more especially Major Daiken at this particular & alarming crisis when so great a quantity of Stores of the First consequence to the Preservation of the United States are lodged in Easton & other Parts of Northampton County; Major Daiken was an officer in the Jersey Militia; it appears great confidence had been placed in him by his countrymen, whom he treacherously, and traiterously deceived, by going over to, & joining the enemy, among some of whom he was sometime since made a Prisoner. At the time the Prisoners of War were lodged at Easton, Congress gave orders for their removal to Dumfries in Virginia; Major Daiken prevailed on Col. Robert Lettice Hooper to permit a letter from Major Daiken to be forwarded by Express to some principal officer, whose interest was intreated, that Major Daiken might remain at Easton, or be sent to his seat in Jersey on his parole—He is suffered to remain at present at Easton, Major Daiken's family, Viz., his wife, niece & son are frequently crossing Delaware to Easton to visit him, & his former conduct gives too much reason to admit of a suspicion of his still remaining inimical to the American cause, & capable of holding a correspondence prejudicial to its true Interests. It is a certain fact that the Prisoners of War, whilst at

Easton, were always possessed of the earliest & best Intelligence, one good reason assigned therefor, was their intimate connection with Lewis Gordon, Esquire,* with whom several of them lodged. Mr. Gordon's son William in Philadelphia with his sister Mrs. Aflick almost constantly, and it is said he has Intelligence from thence, once or twice a week regularly, His eldest son John went off for Philadelphia, as it were, privately, (after having applied to Col. Hooper for a pass, who says he denied him) but a few days before General Howe entered Philadelphia, & it is to be feared he took Letters from the officers, and has not since returned to Easton, whether or no Mr. Lewis Gordon is friendly or not, I will not take upon me to say, one thing I know, that whilst the affairs of America wore a blooming aspect, he was sick, languid & dejected; but now, on the late unfavorable change of American affairs he is brisk & lively, & in his countenance expresses the highest satisfaction. The County of Northampton now contains a great body of Stores, which if lost may prove our Ruin. This naturally affects the minds of many in the County, & leads them to wish that no Prisoners of war might be suffered to remain in the County. The Possession of the Ferry at Easton at this important moment is a matter of the greatest Trust; Persons of all Characters are passing & repassing both at Delaware & Leheigh, & as the Ferriage is constantly paid to Mr. Gordon or some of his Family, it affords an opportunity of conveying & insinuating backwards and forwards whatever Intelligence a dislike to the American cause may be the means of suggesting.

It was pressed on me by Col. Joseph Deane, in particular, to represent to your Excellency, the present situation of the Ferry, from the great numbers of Waggons continually passing and repassing, & great concourse of Officers, Soldiers, & Travellers, the Ferry as well over Leheigh as Delaware, are become not only objects of great consequence but of great profit, and therefore ought to be kept in such order as to answer every the most sudden Emergency; whereas Col. Dean says there is only one Boat in use belonging to Mr. Gordon. There are two other Boats used by Mr. Gordon belonging to the Ferryman on the Jersey side, one Hawk, who complains, that his Two Boats are constantly occupied by Mr. Gordon, without any satisfaction given to him for the use thereof, or anything advanced for Repair, and Hawk says he cannot get the possession of his boats, the public service requiring them. Col. Dean farther requested, that I would represent to your Excellency, that Mr. Gordon had Two large Boats lying on the shore, which at a trifling expense might be repaired & made useful, but that he refuses doing anything towards them, altho the present Exigency requires, that every Boat shou'd be in order. The Enemy's motions are uncertain, and the great Quantity of Stores in Northampton County requires, that, in case of necessity, we shou'd be in the greatest readiness to remove them.

*See order for his arrest, p. 490.

On Receit of Your Excellency's Letters to Col. Hooper and myself respecting waggons, it was proposed by Col. Hooper that I should accompany some of the prisoners to Lancaster, that I might lay before your Excellency the inconveniences that might arise, from waiting to receive immediate orders from council for waggons, when perhaps the demand for them wou'd admit of no delay; it was proposed at that time the prisoners were to leave Easton last Sunday was a week; Col. Hooper went to Bethlehem, &c., & on his return, had concluded to desist from applying to Council, but to hire waggons at the best rate he could, and, if that could not be effected, to give orders for impressing, telling me, that Col Weitzel & Col. Dershler had promised him assistance with Mr. Jennings, and that he soon expected a mandamus from General Washington for that purpose. This Col. Hooper informed me of the morning I left Easton, when I applied to him, for his letter to your Excellency on the subject of Waggons, at which time he was dispatching Mr. Jennings & others for Waggons, saying that Fifteen Hundred Waggons were wanted to remove the stores from Trenton.

It has given not a little anxiety to some, that any Persons shou'd be employed in Public offices of Trust, in the several Departments in the State of Pennsylvania, who have not given Security to the Public, that the persons so employed, are attached to its true interests, and this security it is thought cannot be better given, than by conforming to the Laws of the State, and taking the Test required by Law. It is thought that all persons residing in this State, who do not hold any office immediately under Congress, such as Deputy & Assistant Quarter masters, Deputy & Assistant Commissarys, & so forth, should be suspended, till they have taken the oath of Allegiance, & Fidelity to this State, as they are immediately employed therein, altho their employ notwithstanding may extend to the general service of the United States.

I have the honor to be

Your Excellency's

most obedient

humble Servant

ROBERT LEVERS.

Lancaster, October 8th, 1777.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jun'r Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

COL. MELCHER TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

May it please your Excell'y,

I would beg leave to refer you to my letter a few days since. I wrote Mr. Hancock on ye Subject of Barracks, &, have hitherto not received any answer from him or Y^r^ Ex'cy; permitt me to represent to you the necessity of its being Imediately taken in hand by Congress or ye Council of this State, we are now taking public places of worship here, as well as in N^e^ hampton for Hospitals & privates houses, which is very distressing to ye country, particularly at this period when many of our worthy fellow citizens are wandering from place to place for Shelter, & when they are so fortunate as to meet with one to be turn'd out perhaps in ye dead of winter for ye sick soldery —it is dreadfull, it is yet time to provide. If I receive your or Congress orders you may depend on a Vigilant attention to the Interest of my bleeding country.

I am with difference & Respect,
Your Ex'y,
Your most obed't
h'ble s't,
I. MELCHER.

Reading, 8 Oct. 1777.

P. S.—As soon as ye wounded & sick here and Escorts here are provid'd with quarters I shall return to Lancaster. I have engag'd a quantity of wood here to supply 2 or 300 sick this winter. Shou'd Council recommend ye building Barracks to Congress I beg your Excell'y interposition in my favor.

Am as above,
Your Ex'y,
h'ble s't,
I. M.

Directed,

His Excell'y Thomas Wharton, Esq., President of Council
Favor'd by
Mr. Rittenhouse.

Robert Levers to President Wharton, 1777.

Lancaster, October, 8th, 1777.

Sir,

After I had received my commission from the Supreme Executive Council to hold the office of Prothonotary & Clerk of the Orphans' Court for Northampton County, I waited on Mr. Gordon at Easton, produced the Commissions, & requested the Papers & Records belonging to the offices; many of which he has delivered, but there are many yet in his Possession.

When I had repeatedly waited on Mr. Gordon myself, in person, & requested Mr. Traill to do the same, at his instance, without whom he said he could not find the Papers, I found he declined delivering up the remainder of the papers thro' one evasion or other; I therefore wrote a letter to Mr. Gordon, setting forth therein the Papers still in his possession that I knew of, besides others which possibly might be which I could not directly discover, as well belonging to the offices of Prothonotary & Orphan's Court as the Sessions, the Justices having nominated me clerk of the Sessions, and in the letter acquainted him that after Mr. Traill & myself frequently waiting on him I was sorry to feel myself under the disagreeable necessity of making a demand of the Papers in writing. This letter was delivered by the Gaoler, Mr. Ehler, who said Mr. Gordon's answer was, he did not know what the man meant, he had no Papers in his Possession, the contrary of which Mr. Traill well knew.

At last September Court I applied to the Justices, who sent for Mr. Gordon, but I do not understand any thing was determined, & the Papers still remain with him.

Having examined the Papers in my Possession I find that there remains with Mr. Gordon viz.,

Common Pleas.

Writs for March & June, 1776.

All the Reports of Auditors.

A day book, in which Writs & Executions & all Process issuing out of the office are indiscriminately entered as applied for daily, which doubtless ought to be lodged in the office to settle any dispute that might arise on ye Priority of date of an Execution issued, and which Mr. Traill tells me Mr. Gordon says the office has no Business with.

Orphans' Court.

Sundry Papers. Records from 1755 to 1758.

Sessions.

Papers from 1752 to 1758. Sessions March 1776. Several other Papers & Records which I cannot enumerate, having mislaid the Copy of my letter to Mr. Gordon at the time I left Easton.

All the Indictments & Bills found by the Grand Jury, which Mr. Gordon told me, in the Presence of the Justices, as Clerk of the Sessions, I had nothing to do with. That they were lodged with him by the King's attorney. I apprehend Indictments of Grand Juries to be Papers of Record, & ought to be lodged with the Court or the proper officer of the Court. An old Indictment may be called for Seven years hence.

I beg your Excellency in Council will be pleased to take this matter into consideration & give such directions therein as shall be judged expedient.

When the Court nominated me Clerk of the Sessions, the mode of recommending Two or more Persons to your Excellency in Council that one of them might be approved by Council was not adverted to; and thro' the critical Situation of affairs it was unluckily omitted at the last Court.

I am,

May it please your Excellency,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient

Humble Servant,

ROBERT LEVERS.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Junr, Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

General Armstrong to President Wharton, 1777.

Camp near the Trapp, 8th Octobr, 1777.

Sir,

The necessary absence of the Adjutant General, and hurry in preparing to change our Encampment to move to morrow (toward a Baptist meeting House beyond the N. Wales road) prevents my sending Council a return of the Militia, which you may expect from the next new ground. They have however for some time past been about seventeen hundred, the last return to the General I know wanted of 15 hundred fit for duty. Yesterday & to day we have by the expiration of time had a great falling off, but a number also coming in. Have just now sent an officer express to Allentown, where I hear near two hundred are assembled, probably waiting for arms. At present it will not do to send the arms of the free to the various Lieutenants, the faces of whom we see not, and their habitations of late

changeable, did only one from each County, whence various Classes have issued, attend the Camp, many substitutes might be retained that now go off. Some others also when free say if they had a months pay they would stay longer. Indeed, at a crisis like the present every essential of the army shou'd be present with it. I have this day ordered for Reading a number of insufficient arms, expecting there may be an armorer there, and shall carry on those fit for use to arm the men at Allentown.

I can give you but a faint idea of our many perplexities, among which is the villianous practice of thieving Guns, Gunlocks, ammunition, more especially on hasty and night movements, which I could not have imagined the Militia capable of. Coll. Bull is now in & a return will go with this letter whereby you will see how far short we are, and this morning the General has pressed me to hold fast & call forward all I possibly can for the field, whereby together with various other marks I am persuaded he has another effort near in view. Happy shall we be if well carried through the third general engagement. The Enemy are at work at Jermantown—'tis a strong villiage, streets, & sundry houses & dare say will be Barricaded, also at Philad^{a}, where canon are fixed in various places. I think they will also throw a Bridge of some sort over Grey's Ferry, not only to maintain a communication with, but secure a retreat to their shiping. Hard it is to concert the next mode of attack. God only can open the doors of access. It is said as soon as Howe has fortified he is to seek us in the field, to which we have no objection. Seldome was victory more nearly won, nor strangely lost, as on Saturday last. They are however severely chastised. Meeting houses near the hill, the Hospital & other places crowded with their wounded & perhaps some of ours. Genl Agnew killed, Sir Wm Erskin & Grant wounded, tho' that of Erskin not yet so fully ascertained. They have evacuated Billingsport, which may be considered either as a mark of their expecting an early visit from us, or intention to pay one. Yesterday in council four hundred Continental troops were order'd for Red Bank in order to succour our shiping & Fort Island, as well as prevent the Enemy taking possession of it. Whether the General will countermand the detatchment on since hearing the evacuation of Billingsport I can't say. We lost great part of yesterday with a deputation of Quakers from their yearly meeting—Wall, Emlen, Jossua Morris & two others declaring their own & the innocence of their Body, desiring prejudices agst them might be removed as a Society, seeking in the world only peace, truth & righteousness, with equal love to all men &c. And asking, in a dark manner, his aid for their brethring in exile, &c. The General was for sending them to you & to Congress who had banished their friends, they then retracted that part of their embassy respecting the banished friends, said that rather lay with their Committee of Sufferings. The General gave them their dinner & ordered them only to do penance a few days at Potts until their beards are grown, for which they seemed very thankful.

I'm afraid by mistake I have sent you a letter for General Gates, if so please to forward it thro' the channel of Congress or otherwise.

I am Sir,

With great respect,

Y^r most obed^t humb^le Servt,

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

On the publick service.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, President of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

By an officer, By Mr. Patrick Linch.

"EXTRACTS OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN OF CHARACTER* TO A MEMBER OF CONGRESS."

Albany, 9th Oct^r, 1777.

Dear Sir,

"Two or three Days past have produced very importhant Events in this department. On the afternoon of the 7th, an action commenced about 3 o'clock between the Pickets of the two Armies, which being reinforced on each side was continued till it drew out the whole of Major Gen'l Arnolds Division on our left, and part of Gen'l Lincoln's Division. The contest was warm, & continued with obstinacy on both sides until Evening, when our Troops gained the advanced lines of the Enemy on the Right; these lines and other works forming an Extent of about half a mile, our people entered and kept encamping on the ground all night. Here they found themselves possessed of about 330 Tents with Kettles of corn boiling —nine brass Cannon from 6 to 12 pounders, & 200 prisoners—the dead were numerous; we also seized the Baggage & Plunder of the Flying Enemy. Among the prisoners are Sir Francis Carr Clark, Aid du Camp to Genl Burgoyne—a quarter master Genl said to be a Carleton; Maj^r Ackland, Maj^r Williams of Artillery, and several others of Distinction. It was expected the action would be renewed next Morning. A Cannonade indeed began, but it produced nothing material. We regret that in the action of the 7th Instant Maj^r Genl Arnold received a dangerous Wound in the Leg. Next morning Maj^r Genl Lincoln was also wounded near the same place & manner —we heard they must loose a leg each. Besides these accidents our Troops suffered little—they behaved with great Bravery and Intrepidity, and have a second time triumphed over the valour of Veteran Troops. The Cannonade of yesterday proves now to have been kept up as a cover to the enemy's preparation for a retreat, which

* These words are written over the name of the writer, through which a pen was drawn, (perhaps for publication at the time, or done at a later period.) It was "Jonathan Trumbull, Junr., Esqr."

was begun last night about 11 o'clock, they having improved yesterday in loading their Baggage Waggons, &c., and in sending off what they could. General Gates, however, was not deceived by appearances, but suspecting their design, dispatched yesterday two Parties to go round on their Rear, and this Day two Brigades are in pursuit of the Flying Army. It is said that a Body of men from the Eastward is already arrived at Fort Edward. I have great hopes that their Retreat will be greatly impeded & harassed, if not entirely cut off. They left us (it is said) about 300 men, sick & wounded in their Hospitals. Our Army is on the ground of the Enemies late Camp. Thus Providence is lowering the Pride of haughty Brittain. May he compleat his over throw in this Country, and give us hearts filled with true gratitude for these signal Favors.

Our Joy is damped by the News of the Enemy being in possession of Fort Montgomery on the River below us. This account we received yesterday. Thus providence in Chequering the Scene for wise purposes undoubtedly, altho' to us intricate and dark.

Postscript of the 10th Octr, in the Morning.

Yesterday was a very bad day for Pursuit of the Flying Army, being rainy and very wett. Some articles of value were found since.* Desertion prevails in great degree from the Enemies Camp.

Daniel Roberdeau to President Wharton, 1777.

York Town, Octr 10th, 1777.

Dear Sir,

I am honored with your favor of this date, and with concern I find the alarm taken by the State at the hint thrown out respecting the calling of the Convention in a few hasty lines, the production of a very few minutes while the Express waited. As my time is too much engross'd to take Copies of my Letters I cannot recur to what I wrote, but I meant only to convey this Idea that some real Friends of our State Members of Congress were of Opinion that the salvation of the State depended on calling of a Convention, which was construed by Council and Assembly, as appears from a Letter I am honored with from the Speaker, confirmed by the Attorney General, into a serious Intention in Congress of interfering in the internal Police of our State, so far at least as to influence into the measures in Question, whereas it arose in a tete a-tete betwixt some, as I have already said, real Friends and myself, nor will you be surprised with the sentiment when you are acquainted with the motives. It was publickly and confidently said in and out of Congress, that a

* A paragraph is here erased in the same manner, though plainly legible;—"tis a great misfortune to us at this time, that General Arnold is wounded, his activity and vigor will be much needed in the pursuit." "A true copy, Daniel Roberdeau."

Quorum of the Legislature could not be got together. And as the necessity of the times required the most vigorous measures, and the season for taking the sense of the people for or against a Convention was at hand, their voice in Convention to lay down a system to be executed by Committees of that Body, dispers'd thro' the State, was thought the best succedaneum for the want of an established Legislature, and such Laws competent to the emergency of the times, which were not provided. That these Exertions were necessary to the Salvation of the State, and its safety and liberty would be provided for better than by the interference of Congress, until such Convention had appointed a Legislative Body. This was thought the best Expedient for these Reasons, and might prove a healing measure to our unhappy Divisions. A mistake of the day of Election and that the Constitution had appointed the first Tuesday of this present month, which I could not contradict (as in the hurry of removing my Copy containing the Constitution, was mislaid) influenced to the hint offered you as above, for in this place there was not the least appearance of an Election, from whence it was judged that the people were in such a maze that the day of Election had throughout the State elapsed irrevocably (nor could I satisfy Enquirers on this head), or at best, that a partial election would obtain, and our Country continue to suffer through want of exertion. Thus was I distracted until Dr. Ewing informed me that the Assembly and Council were preparing the most salutary laws, of which I am more fully convinced by the specimen of one put into my hands by Mr. Sergeant, which rejoiced my heart, and is a full proof that under my apprehensions, there was no other way of supplying the very powers given but by a Convention. I heartily congratulate you on the concurring providences which enliven the prospects of publick affairs. I am very respectfully,

Dr Sir, yr most obt
and very humo servt,
DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Junr, Esquire, President of the Commonwealth of Pennsilvania, Lancaster.

Favored by Mr. Sergeant.

Timothy Matlack to Thomas Paine, 1777.

Lancaster, October 10, 1777.

Sir,

The Hon'ble house of As'y have proposed & Council have adopted a plan of obtaining a more regular and constant intelligence of the proceeding of Gen. Washington's army than has hitherto been had. Every one agrees that you are the proper person for this purpose,

and I am directed by his Exc'y, the pr^t, to write to you hereon, (the Pr^st being engaged in writing to the Genl, and the Express in waiting.)

The Assembly have agreed to make you a reasonable compensation for your services in this business, if you think proper to engage in it, which I hope you will; as it is a duty of importance that there are few, however well disposed, who are capable of doing it in a manner that will answer all the intentions of it—perhaps a correspondence of this kind may be the fairest opportunity of giving to Council some important hints, that may occur to you on interesting subjects.

Proper expresses will be engaged in this business. If the Expresses which pass from head quarters to Congress can be made use of so much the better;—of this you must judge.

I expect Mr Rittenhouse will send you a copy of the Testimony of the late Y. M. by this opp'y, if time will admit it to be copied—'tis a poor thing.

Yours,

&c.,

T. M.

Directed,

To T. Paine.

Secretary Matlack to Sub Lieutenants of Philadelphia County, 1777.

Lancaster, 10 October 1777.

Sir,

In the present distracted condition of this State, the annual election of Representatives in some Counties will probably be irregular & broken; and in the City, prevented for the present. In this circumstance, it behoves those whose case may be less embarrased, not to treat remissly, much less to neglect, so important a duty, as that of preserving the succession of the legislative body; and tho' great dependence is justly layed on the zeal & attention of the good people of your County, yet Council think it not amiss to stir up some of them, & you, Sir, in particular, to assist & animate the Electors to a proper conduct on this important occasion, in the choice of Assemblymen, & County officers. Their knowledge of your public spirit & patriotism induces Council to direct the present Letter; hoping that your Candor & good sense will suggest an apology for this seeming interference in the Representative Election.

It may perhaps be of some use to add, that the want of regular Inspectors, or other cautionary circumstances, depending on Consta-

bles & others, ought not to be construed to make void the right of Electors to an essential privilege.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient hum. Servt,

T. MATLACK, Secy.

Directed,

To The Sub Lieutenants of the county of Philadelphia—or any of them.

ARCHIBALD McCLEAN TO VICE PRESIDENT BRYAN, 1777.

York, October 11th, 1777.

Dear Sir,

In this Time of Confusion, Calamity and Distress, and possessed of an Heart, willing to do and perform every Thing within my Power as well to further the General Cause as establish Order amongst ourselves, I must look to you for Directions in what manner to proceed in the Line to which I am appointed by your Honourable Board, and I am thus obliged to make application to you from Necessity, having no One Gentleman of the Law here, that I can put Confidence in; all those who are now here with Congress being engaged in their own various Departments, and I believe are for the most part entirely in opposition to the present Frame of Government being ever carried into Execution.

Mr Smith of this Place, hath been abroad on acct of his Health these three months past, and it is intirely uncertain when he will return again, otherwise I could have had direction from him, communicated with Fidelity and Chearfulness.

The affairs of this County are in a deplorable and most discouraging Situation. The Test Act, as it is Called, instead of strengthening us, hath, in my opinion, weaked us very much; not one fourth part of the Inhabitants hath, or will take it; nay, they spurn at it, yet say they are Friendly to the Cause in General; I am some Times inclined to think that had the abjuration been emitted, it would have had a good Effect and had better Countenance; but under our present Gloom it is discouraged. The Election is approaching near, and no proper steps are taking for the holding of one.—The Sheriff, after being qualified, returned home, about 30 miles distant, and hath set nothing on foot as I am informed, for the holding thereof; indeed, even the Election of Inspectors, which ought to have been held upon this Day, is not advertised nor attended to; we have no Constables who will take the Oath to qualify them to serve—and if an Election should be held in some sort, I am Certain

that it will be held by less than one fifth of the Inhabitants. All the Principal Men of the County hang back, and do nothing except exclaiming against the Frame of Government. Under all these discouragements, with what Heart can a few raw and unexperienced Persons proceed to the organizing and setting on Foot Government amongst a People who seem as if the Chose to live without having any Order Established amongst them? The Court is also approaching, and I am at a stand what Measures shall be pursued in respect of it, by Reason of my inexperience, and having no Person from whom to receive directions, or whether it will be prudent, under our present unfortunate Situation to open it or not, I submit to the Council.

Under this view of affairs I would humbly presume to beg the Directions of Council;—In the first Place, whether we shall take upon us to open the ensuing Court?—If so, we are unprepared with Respect to Constables;—Whether a precept must first be issued for that Purpose? If that be necessary I would beg the Favour of a Form thereof, as I am a stranger thereto; Or whether, under the present Circumstance of the State being actually invaded, the Council would not think it prudent to dispense with the opening the Court for this ensuing Term, as if it should open, Writs will then be grantable, and I do no know the Magistrate who would choose they should be tested in his Name;—and further especially as our most experienced Justices are now abroad with the Militia.

If the Council should advise and direct the opening of the Court, I would then humbly Crave that Col. Morris, or some other Gentleman of the Law may be requested to attend it, in Order that it may be done regularly, and a proper dignity carried with and stamped upon it—and that they be here on the Monday preceeding, in Order that Matters may be fully prepared; as I would Request to be indulged only to act as a spectator, the first Court, and to learn Experience therefrom.

In the mean Time I would (after acknowledging all past Favours of this kind) humbly entreat your Favour to write me by the most early Opportunity, in Respect to these Matters, as I may perhaps receive some Consolation therefrom, and the Rather, as I am much damped with the Perverseness of Numbers of the Inhabitants of this County, whose Experience and Influence would, with proper Exertions, have rendered me much more happy in my present Station.

I am, Dear Sir,

your already obliged

humble Servant,

ARCH^d McCLEAN.

The Honble. George Bryan, Esq.

P. S. I really doubt the Test Law will produce bad Effects, as great Numbers who say they are well affected to the General Cause,

are disaffected therewith, and their Conduct doth much harden our professed Enemies—and it rendering the Number of Electors to be so very few, Government will be thereby weakened, and all offices being thrown amongst a Party thro' the Conduct of the Disaffected, doth greatly alarm some well wishers, both to the General Cause and to Government.

A. M. C.

Col. Bradford & Comm'e Hazelwood to Pres't Wharton, 1777.

Fort Mifflin, October 11th, 1777.

Sir,

My last imform'd you that the enemy had erected a battery at the mouth of Schuylkill.

Last night a party of above one hundred Men got over at Webbs ferry and threw up a redoubt within two muskets shot of us, opposite the block house—as soon as discovered the Commodore order'd three Gallies to attack the redoubt, also one of the floating batteries to play on it, which they did so warmly that the Enemy dar'd not to fire one shot.

After about two hours the Enemy held out a flag, and the Soldiers appear'd on the bank with their muskets clubed. The Commodore and myself with several boats went off to take the prisoners on board when we had got about fifty of them in the boats.

Colonel Smith who was in the block house seeing some others coming from the house of Adam Guyer, imprudently fired two shot at them which caus'd the rest of those who had surrender'd to run off, and took possession of their battery again and fir'd on us, so that by one imprudent step we lost one half of our prisoners and the Cannon which they had in the redoubt, and must now fight for it again. The Enemy lays so near the Chevaux de frise at Billingsport that we have not been able to sink the Ship I mentioned in my last, and indeed we have hardly had time, for the whole defence of this Fort against the Enemy who are landed depends on the Fleet and not much on the troops in it. The Prisoners taken are one Lieutenant, One Ensign & 56 Privates, which were immediately sent over to Red Bank and are forwarded to Haddonfield. Those that remain on board the Fleet seem now to be staunch and no Desertions since my last. These different affairs reduce our Ammunition very much, I have sent up to Trenton for some which I hope

will soon arrive. The Commodore & Capt Robeson of the Continental Fleet join most heartily in all their measures.

I am, Sir,

Your most H'ble Serv't,

Wm. BRADFORD,

JOHN HAZELWOOD.

Directed,

On Public Service.

To His Excellency Tho's Wharton, Esqr, President of the State of Pennsylvania at Lancaster.

Sup. Exec. Council to Genl. Washington, 1777.

Philadelphia, 12th Sepr, 1777.

Sir,

Council have strong apprehensions that General Howe may take the shortest road to cross over the Schuylkill, called the Swedes' Ford. Below this pass, which is about 17 miles to the northwest of the City, there is no ford equally good, or tollerably practicable.

Some Cannon, 12 'pounders, will be sent thither, & orders were issued yesterday for great part of the militia of Philadelphia & Bucks Counties to assemble at the Swedes' Ford & other places on the banks of that River. Measures are also taking to bring the Townspeople to do the like, & to watch the lower parts. Parties have been employed to collect the Boats, attend the removal of the bridge, & the driving off the cattle.

But these precautions ought not to be depended on. The want of arms for the people at large is great, & seems remediless. Many discouraged by present circumstances will be backward, whilst others will act feebly.

In the mean time Council view the unguarded condition of the works on the Delaware with concern, as they are not provided with means to reinforce them.

I am

May it please your Excellency,

Yr Excellys most obedt,

& very humble servant.

Directed,

To His Excelly Gen. Washington.

Richard Henry Lee to Supreme Exec. Council, 1777.

Philadelphia, October 12th, 1777.

Sir,

The Minister of France having applied to the Marine Committee for a Pilot to bring the frigate Chimere above the Chiveaux de Frize, for the double purpose of rendering the ship safe from the enterprises of the enemy, and that she may be so situated as to cover the passage of the Frize, and assist in the defence of the river. The Committee having given directions for this purpose, find upon enquiry, that a Capt Wade, of the sloop Speedwell, in the service of this State, is better acquainted with the present state of the Cheveaux de Frize than any person we can get, I am, therefore, Sir, in the name of the Marine Committee, to request that you and your honorable Board will be pleased to give directions that Capt Wade may proceed without delay to the execution of this business.

I have the honor
to be Sir,
your most obedient
and very humble servant,
RICHARD HENRY LEE,
Chairman M. Committee,

Directed,

His Excellency The Vice President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

Deposition of Samuel McGregor, 1777.

Pennsilvania ss.

On the 15th day of October, Anno Domino, 1777, before the Council, Samuel McGregor, of East Nottingham in Chester County, Schoolmaster, on his solemn oath on the holy gospel, deposeth and saith, that on Monday, the thirteenth Instant, about day-break, this deponent was near Brandy-wine Manor Meeting house, in West Nantmell, Chester County, connected with a party of militia, & went to the dwelling of Isaac Green, about two miles Eastward of said Meeting house, & that this deponent there personating a Light horse soldier of the army of General How, & applying to said Isaac for information & direction concerning the abode of Major Culbertson of the Militia of said County, who this deponent seemed to be desirous

to seize, saying that he was on the King's errand, not his own; that thereupon the said Isaac after some hesitation & caution, accompanied this deponent and Captain John Gardiner, who had been hard by during the conversation aforesaid between said Isaac & this deponent, from said Isaac's house towards the said Meeting house, one hundred yards or thereabouts, that then addressing himself to this deponent & said Gardiner, as light horse men aforesaid, said Isaac shewed a Road which parted from the great Road, & gave this deponent & the said Gardiner very particular & exact direction whereby to find said Culbertson's dwelling; that then said Isaac left said Culbertson & this deponent, first observing & saying, "We live here among troublesome people;" to which Captain Gardiner, counterfeiting the voice & accent of a Scots-man, replied, "in a few days now, we will restore you to your wonted liberty,"—& said Isaac Green answered, "I hope in God you will, Gentlemen." That the party of Militia aforesaid, or some of them, then coming up, was the reason why this deponent & said Culbertson left said Isaac Green.

That in the Course of the Conversation between said Isaac & this deponent, as aforesaid, said Isaac told this deponent that there were above one hundred Militia at said Meeting house, but that they had not more than thirty Guns, & no ammunition, & that Captain Gardiner thereupon said, "when we have taken Major Culbertson we will disperse them," or words to that effect.

SAML. McGREGOR.

Sworn in Council.

GEO. BRYAN, Vice Presid^t.

Col. Hubley to Sup. Exec. Council, 1777.

Camp, October 13, 1777.

Gent^n,

I have nothing New for you since my last further than to add, that another Genl. (Gray) was wounded in our late Engagement, this being the same Catiff that commanded in the Night of our Surprize, and now justly suffers for his Cruelty; In that Expedition he had given positive orders no Quarters should be given to the Rebels; would to God he had fell in our Hands—proper notice by our Men would certainly have taken him.

We have positive Accounts of the number of the Enemies wounded in the late Action, which were carried to Philad^a, viz., 1600 (killed near 900). We just received orders to compleat our Men with 52 rounds of Cartridges p^r man. This forbodes an Expedition soon, I dare say in a few days, & I hope with the Blessing

of Providence we shall be able to give you a good Acco^t of our Army.

The Enemy have attack'd our Forts on Delaware Yesterday morning early both by Land & Water; the Firing was very heavy all day Yesterday, & the Musick began this Morning again. I can give you no Particulars as yet. But by all Appearances the Forts are defended very obstinately.

We have Account after Account of ye Death of Genl Burgoyne to the Northward. A Serjeant Patrole of 8 Hessian Yagers mounted on Horse came out & were killed & taken by a Party of Men 11 in number.

I am, Gent., your humble Servt.

Wm. Buchanan to Pres. Wharton, 1777.

York Town, 13th Oct., 1777.

Sir,

An Apprehension of the Rise of Provision made me think of issuing the enclosed Order to the Deputy Commissary General of Purchases. After writing it, I was informed by General Roberdeau that the Legislature of your State had under their Consideration a Regulation of a similar Nature, and was by him advised to confer with them on the Subject; But as the Business of my Department will not admit of my doing myself the Honour of a personal attendance on them, I therefore take the Liberty of sending you the enclosed, and of begging you to favour me with an Account of what your State has done in this Matter, that I may conform my orders therewith. Should your Assembly not take this Matter up, I shall be much obliged by your taking the Trouble of sealing and forwarding the enclosed to Camp.

I am, Sir,

Y^r mo. Obed^t & Very h'ble Servt,

WM. BUCHANAN, C. G. of P.

Directed,

The Honourable Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Col. Bradford to Pres. Wharton, 1777.

Fort Mifflin, October 13th, 1777.

Sr,

My last informed you of our Success in taking 56 of the Enemy Prisoners, and that by Col. Smith's Firing on a Body which we apprehended were coming down to surrender, we lost many Prisoners, but we are since informed it was a large Party coming down to rescue those that had surrendered, who were just arrived. That afternoon the Gallys and Floating Battery kept up a considerable Fire on the Redoubt, but to little Effect. Yesterday Morning a Party of about 150 men were landed from this Fort on Province Island, with an Intent to take the Redoubt under the Fire of three Gallies and the Floating Battery; but the Number of the Enemy were much more than was expected, all under Cover, and a Party full as Many as we had on shore coming down from Adam Guyers, we were obliged to retire, with the Loss of two men killed and five wounded.

The Enemy's Ships having taken up one of the Chevaux de Frise, the Commodore went down last Night with two Chains of Fire Rafts to drive them from that Place, and a very heavy Cannonade ensued with the Roebuck, the Ship that was sent down, and carrys 24 Pounders, and two other Ships, but the Commodore obliged them to quit their Station and fall down the River, and our Gallys being afraid to pass the Chevaux de Frize in the Night were obliged to return. This Morning, with the Tide of Flood, the Enemy's Ships returned to their Station, and we are informed they have taken up another Chevaux de Frize, tho' I can give but little Credit to it. These different attacks has reduced our ammunition very much, and unless we soon get some I fear the Consequences. Mr Manual Eyres went off some time ago for some; have not yet heard of him. Yesterday, Mr. James Wharton & Jonathan Penrose was here; they went off and have promised they will go to where the Ammunition is and send it down. If your Excellency will send off an Express and know if it is forwarded it will be of real Service. The Enemy are throwing up Works in many Places in the Meadows.

I am

Your Excellency's

Most Hble Servt,

WM. BRADFORD.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thos Wharton, Esqr, President of the State of Pensylvania, Lancaster.

Extract of a Letter from General Washington, 1777.

Oct. 13, 1777.

It gives me pain to repeat so often the wants of the army, & nothing would induce me to it but the most urgent necessity. Every mode hitherto adopted for supplying them has proved inadequate, notwithstanding my best endeavours to make the most of the means which have been in my power. The inclosed return will shew how great our deficiency is in the most essential articles. What new expedient Congress can devise for more effectually answering these demands I know not, persuaded as I am, that their closest attention has not been wanting to a matter of so great importance: But circumstanced as we are, I am under an absolute necessity of troubling them, that if any new source can be opened for alleviating our distresses, it may be embraced as speedily as possible. For 'tis impossible that any army so unprovided can long subsist, or act with that vigor which is requisite to ensure success.

The return now enclosed is for troops present in camp, besides which there are numbers in the several Hospitals totally destitute of the necessaries they require to fit them for the field, & on this account alone are prevented from joining their corps. The recruits coming in are in the same melancholy predicament. I cannot ascertain with precision what quantity of cloathing is at this time in Mr. Meases' hands, but from every account what he has can administer but a very partial relief. I know he is intirely bare of some of the most capital articles we want.

Extract.

CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Resolution of Congress 1777.

In Congress, Oct'r 14, 1777.

Whereas the British nation have received into their ports, & condemned in their Courts of Admiralty, as lawful prize, several vessels & their cargoes belonging to these States, which the masters & mariners, in breach of the trust & confidence reposed in them, have betrayed & delivered to the officers of the British crown,

Resolved therefore,

That any vessel or cargo, the property of any British subject, not an inhabitant of Bermuda, or of any of the Bahama islands, brought into any of the ports or harbours of any of these United States by the master or mariner, shall be adjudged lawful prize, & divided

among the captors in the same proportion, as if taken by any continental vessels of war,

Extract from the minutes,

CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Daniel Roberdeau to President Wharton, 1777.

York Town, Oct'r 14th, 1777.

Dr Sir,

Your Letter for Gen. Gates waits an express, which I expect will go for the Northern Department in a day or two. The late act appointing a council of Safety* is flattering to my expectations as the immediate vigorous exertions of that Board, in co-operation with the Board of War here, which is ordered to correspond with the former and with their assistance to procure Shoes, Stockings and other supplies for the army, I doubt not will produce the most salutary effects. Gen. Washington writes that the service is greatly impeaded for the want of these articles, that great numbers of men are detained in the Hospitals, for no other reason but that they are bare footed, besides the necessities of the troops in the field. Shall this be permitted when our worst enemies the Tories are abundantly supplied, is it not reasonable to look to this quarter and that our avowed Enemies, through the tract the enemy passed, and universally through the States should spare of their superfluities at least? and if either lack, should it be our army on which under God, our lives, liberties, & fortunes depend? Mr. Henry informs that greater quantities of leather is at Lancaster ever known, great quantities, I am informed is also here, from Mr. Henry's account as well as by information from a principle hand here, the Tanners are willing to part with their Leather for green hides. The board of war has informed me they will order green hides for Leather, and have promised to write you on the subject, but if it should be omitted through hurry, let this information assure you of the fact, as delais may prove dangerous, therefore I take the liberty to recommend to take the Leather at Lancaster, and to do the same here and elsewhere, I would have you aware that it is expected you will take the lead as it would be an interference w^h the internal policy to do otherwise. I mention this to remove former suspicions and that you may expect no other than a constant Correspondence, and such good offices as the Board of War can render. With submission I think a number of shoemakers should be immediately emploied and registered as the servants to

* See Vol. IV. p. 686, 792, also the proclamation of it, Col. Rec. Vol. XI. p. 325.

the publick, and that what you do should be communicated to the Board of War, and so vice versa, that you may not unduely depend on eon the other. It is recommended that in your dealings, you give certificates, I am told by one of the officers of the state that Col. Mc Callester of a larger number of shoes, some concealed in his bed Chamber, has delivered but a trifling quantity, I mean to say that the Gentleman in whom the state has the fullest dependance gave information of the shoes, and that the Board of War say comparitively few has been delivered. The horrid scene of extortion here is shocking, butter has got to 10s. ℔ lb, Eggs, 2s. ℔ dozen, and other articles in proportion, is there no way to put a stop to these enormities, I am not to direct to the immediate steps that may be thought necessary by the Board of Safety, but I am bold to say no such effectual measures can be devised as the strictest economy, opening the Courts of Justice and a heavy taxation, these will be more effectual than an army with Banners, as the Depreciation of our Currency is more to be dreaded, at present the people have no manner of use for money, but as soon as found necessary for Taxes Court Fees, &c., it will recover the credit of our money, yesterday we are informed from Massachusets that they have laid on a second Tax, the first for one hundred & five thousand pounds and the latter for three hundred & fifty thousand at the rate of 6s. to a Dollar. This seems an incredible burthen, but we are told the people cry out for heavy taxes well knowing that the money that remains in their pockets is of more value than the whole would be. Besides it shows their wisdom as the earliest Taxes will be most easily paid, on account of the great quantities of circulating cash. Fort Montgomery is taken, but I trust by the exertions of Gen. Gates and his army and the aid which I make no doubt will pour in to Peeks Kill, affairs will yet go well to the Northward, and may we not hope God will bless our arms in this state. The mention of the state is enough to raise a blush for my Country. Can no way be devised to animate and call to our assistance the back Inhabitants. I forgot to mention that Indian affairs both North & South, are in the most promising train, and Col. Morgans account now here, is no way discouraging to the westward. Thro the medium of Congress a Rattle trap and Turkeys Tail was sent by numerous tribes at the Southward to their Brethren to the Northward, and Gen. Schuyler informs that 140 had joined our army and that many more were expected, and what is more flattering that a number of the Tribe of St. Francis had desired protection to their families, and liberty to remove to Connecticut. Some of the principal articles of Consideration have passed, and I expect it will be finished in a few days, knowing this also is necessary to our Salvation. I am obliged to write you in this manner for want of time and having a miserable instrument in my hand. I hope my great freedom will be excused, as I have no other motive than the principle

which influences your breast. With most respectful regard to your Hon'ble Board I am respectfully,

Dr Sir

Yr most ob'dt &

very humo Servt

DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

P. S. I write with the greatest confidence as well as freedom, as the times require it. I endeavoured to obtain an Ellection which was held, but I do not know what was done.

Directed.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jun'r Esq.

General Armstrong to President Wharton, 1777.

Camp at Towamanzen, 14th Octobr, 1777.

Sir,

Your favour of the 9th Inst was sent me near two days agoe, but Mr. Sutton, the Express, has not called on me (but hope he has at least on Mr. Payne), which may be owing to a late illness which has prevented my attendance at head quarters some four or five days —an obstinate Cold threatening to effect my breast & Lungs, but of which I am to day some what better. Notwithstanding we have had a very infamous falling off of the Militia, which may with great justice be called Desertion, more especially at, & shortly after the Battle of Brandiwine, yet at no time has their numbers exceeded 2973 rank & file; according to our highest return this number is but of short duration, so that the publick cannot be charged with the numbers ordered by Council, as they never took the field. With regard to discipline, however difficult to exercise under a variety of circumstances daily arising, & many of them unforseen, yet you may depend we have not been inattentive to that business, having whip'd & cashier'd in several instances. At this time I presume it is unnecessary to show the inexpedience of the Militia law in regard to substitutes—amongst other inconveniencies 'tis grevious to hear of £50 offered for two months, to many of those who can not be trusted, nor are some of them worth their rations. With respect to the Liquors promised the Militia, Council will remember that General Washington would not permit the dayly distribution of that article for the reasons I formerly assigned. The sundry Quartermasters are the most likely persons to be able to tell the quantity given, provided they have kept the returns from their several regiments, & these Qr masters are many of them gone home. Untill the 1st of Sepr I immagin the militia had the quantity every day,

which Liquor also belonged to the State, since that time, on an average, they may have had it once a week, & that of Continental spirits; these are the best Ideas I have of that matter, but can not depend on them, but shall make what further enquiry I possibly can. This moment your favour of the 12th is delivered by a Coll. Clark, & shall detain this letter for the enquiry but now mentioned. The powers committed to Council, &c., I can only say on the first view is very necessary, as some, altho' but few in my hearing, have talked of martial Law as inevitable in our State; to-morrow I shall produce the act at head Quarters. As to another General attack it is undoubtedly in contemplation, the consequences of which must probably be very important in what ever scale they fall; it is however impossible for persons at a distance to conceive the time requisite to refit after an affair, such as ours of the other day; we are in the mean time tormenting their Piequets, & moving nearer them, perhaps to prevent Mr. Howe the fatigue of a long march, as it's said he is suddenly to seek our army in the field. I'm of Opinion he would rather receive us in his new entrenchments—a reinforcement from York & Rhode Island he has received, who have landed at Wilmington, a larger number said to follow, but the strength is not yet well ascertained.

My Division is now separated, General Potter with his Brigade being sent to Chester County to annoy the Enemies small parties, whether Horse or foot, that may be found on the Lancaster or Derby roads, prevent provisions going to the enemy, &c. I have heard of a fifth class of the Militia of that County being ordered to remain for its own defence, which is very proper, the Commander of that Class ought to communicate with General Potter & occasionally take his instructions. A number of the Gallies have behaved nobly, beating back several of the ships of force, and lately took two officers & about fifty privates, either from Province or Carpenter Island. Succours of Men & ammunition hath been sent them. This letter will scarcely give you the first of the blessed news from the Northward, yet may so good a story be twice told. General Gates's army on this day week, & the following day, has totally routed the army of the great Burgoyne, taken upward of three hundred prisoners, a number of canon, &c., &c., but the particulars you will more fully hear from Congress. May God be praised, & let every honest American say amen.

General Irwin presents his compliments & joines in congratulations to your Excellency & Council.

with your most obedt

humble servt,

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

P. S. I'm sorry to tell you that after all the enquiry that can now be made here, no true report of the quantity of spirits given to any particular Battalion can possibly be made, nor if you even

had all the Qr Masters who are now dispersed, I question whether they have notes sufficient for the purpose; the first called out I suppose has little, if any thing of that sort to demand; perhaps the Coll's of the Battalions may be able to say more than I can from them, & the sundry Qr Masters can any farther light possible be had; some Battalions have had more than others; from the 1st of Sept'r, or at farthest, from the 10th of that month, I think all the spirits they have had was found by Continental Commissaries, of which, as to the quantity, no doubt they will have an account.

J. A.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1777.

Lancaster, October, 15th, 1777.

Sir,

The militia of this state are still in great want of arms, and Council are informed that there are many light ones at Bethlehem which have not stood full proof, which may do in the hands of careful men used to arms. These council request the Board of war will order to be delivered for the militia. You will please to lay this business before the hon'ble Board of war and let me know their answer.

I am respectfully

Your humble servant.

Tench Tilghman to President Wharton, 1777.

Head Quarters, 15th, October, 1777.

Sir,

I yesterday recd the favr of yours of the 13th, and wish it were in my power to afford as much time as I could wish to give the president and Council the particulars of the occurences in the Army. We have recd certain accounts of the late glorious Victory to the northward. We took two 12lb and six 6lb Brass Cannon with a number of Tents and a quantity of Baggage. Prisoners Sir Francis Clark A. D. C., to Burgoin. The commanding officer of Artillery and of the British Grenadiers, the Q. M. Genl said to be Brother to Genl Carlton, a number of inferior Rank, and about 250 privates. The slain are considerable, among them Genl Fraser. Our loss does

not exceed 80, only one subaltern killed and among our wounded are Gen[l] Lincoln and Arnold, the latter will lose his leg. The enemy have left upwards of 800 sick and wounded, among them six Captains. Gen[l] Burgoine has retired towards Fort Edward, but Gen[l] Gates had taken the precaution to throw 2000 men in his Rear, which I hope will put a stop to him till our Army get up. They are in pursuit. This we have from the Adjutant Gen[l] of the Northern Army. The taking of Fort Montgomery cost Gen[l] S[r] Harry Clinton much blood. I have seen a hand Bill printed in New York in which they confess the loss of Gen[l] Campbell, Major Still, Major Grant and Cap[t] Steward. We have this moment rec[d] letters from Fort Mifflin, they are in good spirits, and the Enemy have not yet made the least impression. You must not depend upon me for a regular Correspondence, if Mr. Paine is not in the way and any thing material occurs I will give you a line.

I am, Sir,

Y[r] most ob[t] Serv[t],

TENCH TILGHMAN.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esq., Secretary to the State at Lancaster.

Indorsement.

From Col. T. Tilghman, rece'd October 16th, 1777.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1777.

War Office, Oct. 15th, 1777.

Sir,

I am directed to communicate to you the following Resolves of Congress & to inform you that the Board are very desirous & hope you will also be anxious to carry them into speedy Execution, as the Army on which our Cause so much depends are in a suffering Condition from the Want of the Articles enumerated in the Resolves. Some Attempts have been made but with small success to obtain the Necessaries required by the army, at & in the Neighbourhood of this Place & notwithstanding a Number of Shoes have been obtained there are no other Articles to be procured & even these are at such extravagant Rates as almost to amount to a Prohibition to purchase them.

In Congress, Sep[r] 27th, 1777.

"Resolved,

"That the Board of War be directed to co-operate with General "Washington in devising & carrying into Execution the most

"effectual Measures for supplying the Army with Fire-arms, Shoes, "Blankets, Stockings, Provision & other Necessaries & that in ex-"ecuting this Business the Collection be confined as much as Cir-"cumstances will admitt to Persons of dissaffected & equivocal "Characters."

In Congress, Oct. 18th, 1777.

"Ordered,

"That the Board of War apply to the Executive Powers of Penn-"silvania & request their Co-operation to supply the Army with "shoes & stockings & other Necessary that the said Board maintains "a constant Correspondence with the Executive Powers of the said "State and with General Washington for the Purposes above "mentioned, & for the Service of the Army in General."

I am your very obedt Servt,

RICHARD PETERS, Sec'y.

On public Service. To His Excellency Thomas Wharton jr Esq. President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsilvania Lancaster.

General Clinton to General Putman, 1777.

Kings Town, 15th, October, 1777.
10 O'clock Wednesday Evening.

Dear General,

What follows is the Copy of a letter from the Chairman of the Committee of the City of Albany to the president of the Council of Safety, I congratulate you on the important intelligence contained in it.

To Genl Putman.

Albany, 15th, October, 1777.

"Last night at 8 O'Clock the Capitulation where by General Burgoine and whole Army surrendered themselves prisoners of War was signed, and this morning they have to march out towards the River above Fish Creek with the Honors of War, and there ground their Arms. They are from thence to be marched to Massachusetts Bay. We congratulate you on this happy event and remain

Yrs &c.

Geo. Clinton.

(Copy)

Pres. Wharton to Col. Blaine, 1777.

Lancaster, 16th October, 1777.

Sir,

I have layed before the Council of Safety, who are sitting here, the inclosed Letter from Mr. Buchannan, dated the 13th Instant, at York, concerning the prices of beef & pork, needed for the Continental Army.

The Legislature in this time of difficulty & invasion has enabled us to make regulations in regard to the prices of Victuals & other necessaries for the Army, & to inforce the sale of them where they are withholden. The Commissaries may be assured of our Co-operation & aid. We have remarked to Mr. Buchannan that the price of pork as set by him is rather low, & desired him to re-consider it, as to this State. At his request, the Commissary of the Naval armament in Delaware will be immediately directed to conform to such regulations as you may publish, in his purchases.

I am, Sir, in behalf of the Council of Safety,

Your very obedient, humᵉ Servant.

(To Col. Blaine.)

Pres. Wharton to Col. Buchanan, 1777.

Lancaster, Oct. 16, 1777.

Sr,

The Council have recᵈ your Letter Inclosing that to Mr. Blaine. The Assembly have made no Law to regulate prices, but have empower'd us (in Council of Safety) to do it, and we approve of your plan; have forwarded yours to Mr. Blaine inclosed in one from us, & will co-operate to the utmost of our power, particularly by directing our Commissary to not bid above you. However, we would recommend it to your Serious Consideration whether Pork be not estimated too low. Pork has usually exceeded the Price of Beef, but on your regulation is lower. Will this do? We rather doubt it.

I am, Sir,

Your most H. Servant.

Coll. Buchanan.

Resolution of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, October 16th, 1777.

Ordered, That a Copy of Genl. Washington's Letter of the 13th and Returns relative to Cloathing wanted for the Army be sent by Express to each of the States of Massachussetts Bay, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, and that they be respectively requested to send to the General with all possible Dispatch as many of the several Articles mentioned in the Return as can be collected and are not immediately wanted for their respective Regiments which have not joined the Army aforesaid, and to order the Officers in the Cloathier's Department in the States aforesaid to use their utmost Exertions in forwarding the Cloathing in their Possession as aforesaid.

By order of Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, Presidt.

Genl. Washington to Pres. Wharton, 1777.

Head Quarters, 17th Octor, 1777.

Sir,

As the term of service of great numbers of the Militia of this State, who were called out some time ago, has expired, and their places have been by no means punctually filled up by succeeding Classes, I am constrained to call upon you in the most pressing manner, to exert the Powers of Government, not only to keep up the number of four thousand men demanded by Congress, but of a much greater number if they can possibly be armed & accoutred. When the Capital of your State is in the Enemies hands, and when they can only be dislodged from thence by a powerful reinforcement of Militia, in aid of the Continental Troops, there should not be a moment's hesitation whether one or two Classes should be commanded to appear, but at least one half of the men capable to bear arms should be called into the Field. By exertions of this kind, New York, tho' sorely oppressed by our avowed Enemies, and more so by our internal foes, has made a noble resistance; and New Jersey has kept the Enemy out of her limits, (except now and then a hasty descent) without a Continental regiment. Besides doing this she has sent, and is now sending, reinforcements to this and the Northern Army. It will be no great while before the Militia from Maryland & Virginia will have performed their Tour of duty, & the distance which most of them have to travel before they reach the

enemy, I cannot expect much more assistance from these quarters in the course of the remaining part of the Campaign. I assure you, Sir, it is matter of astonishment to every part of the Continent, to hear that Pensylvania, the most opulent and populous of all the States, has but Twelve hundred Militia in the Field, at a time when the Enemy are endeavouring to make themselves compleatly masters of, and to fix their Winter Quarters in her Capital. Without the free Navigation of Delaware, I am confident that Genl. Howe will never remain in Philadelphia, and I am as confident that had I a sufficient force to afford as much assistance to the Forts upon Delaware as their importance deserves, that he would not be able to possess them. I have spared as many of the Continental Troops as I possibly can, without endangering the safety of this Army, and I shall still continue to afford every further relief in my Power. From this state of facts, I hope that you will not lose a moment, in calling upon, and endeavouring to rouse the people of this Province to a manly and effectual opposition, and I know of no means so likely to answer, as not to confine the demand to any particular number, but call upon every man to come forth. The County Lieutenants should be particularly careful to see that all those who have arms and accoutrements of their own bring them out, for they have a very mistaken notion that there are full Supplies in the Continental Stores. Many even come out without Blankets, expecting to find them.

There is another matter which I beg leave to recommend to the serious consideration of the Legislature of your State. That is the falling upon some mode of compleating and keeping up the Quota of your Continental regiments. Upon an average, your Battalions have never been above one third full, and now, many of them are far below even that. From the extravagant prices given to substitutes in the Militia in the different States, it has become impossible to recruit men upon the Bounty allowed by Congress. The New England States and Virginia have began to adopt the mode of drafting, and I am informed they have succeeded very well. I am convinced that this will be found the only method of raising Continental Troops, and if the measure was to become general throughout the States, it would not be deemed a hardship. I mention this matter to you at this time, in hopes that you will, as soon as possible, fall upon this or some other mode to recruit your regiments in the course of this fall and winter, and as it is more than probable that our opposition will not end with this Campaign, we ought to endeavour to have a respectable Army in the Field in the Spring, before the Enemy can receive further reinforcements from Europe.

I have the Honor to be, Sir,

Your most Obet. hum. Servant,

G°. WASHINGTON.

Just as I was upon closing my letter the inclosed most interesting and happy intelligence came to my hands. It remains for us to

play a counterpart, and to enable me to do it effectually I hope the whole Force of your State will pour forth.

Directed,

(On Public Service.) The Honble Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of the State of Pensylvania, Lancaster.

G°. Washington.

PRESIDENT WHARTON TO COMMODORE HAZELWOOD.

In Council of Safety, Lancaster, Octr 17th, 1777.

Sir,

I did myself the pleasure of writing to you the 15th Inst., to be forwarded from Head Quarters. After the express left this I received your two letters dated the 8th & 11th Inst, and congratulate you on your success against the Enemy's Battery, 'tis pitty any thing should happen to prevent the whole of their small Garrison falling into your hands after they had once surrendered.

I make no doubt by this time you have the remainder, with any reinforcement they may have sent; and that you have fully convinced the British officers that you can and will prevent their ships passing the Chevaux De Frize, by doing this you render essential service to your country and will be entitled to their best thanks.

The late glorious success of the army under command of Genl Gates, over Genl Burgoyne, must give pleasure to every true Friend to Liberty and inspire our Fleet and Army in this quarter with such sentiments I hope as will lead them on victory, so that we may soon enjoy the blessings of Peace. The Inclosed letter for Wm. Crispin, Esq., Commissary of Provisions for the Fleet of this State, I beg you to deliver or forward to him, as I don't know where to direct it, it is left open for your perusal.

I am in behalf of the Council, yours &

Colonel Bradford's Very Hum° Servant,

THO°. WHARTON, Junr, Pres^t.

(Copy.)

Directed,

To Compdore Hazelwood.

President of Congress to Assembly, 1777.

York Town, Pennsylvania, October 17th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

I have the Honour to transmit a Copy of the Returns to Congress from General Washington of those articles of Clothing that are absolutely necessary for the Army under his immediate Command, accompanied with an Extract of the General's Letter on the Subject. From these you will perceive that the Troops are in the greatest distress, and likely to suffer still more from the inclemency of the approaching season, unless they are relieved in Time. I am therefore, in obedience to the enclosed order of Congress, earnestly to request you will forward to Head Quarters, with all possible Dispatch, all such articles mentioned in the Return as you are able to collect, and which are not immediately wanted for those Regiments that have not yet joined the Army. You will also be pleased to issue orders to the officers of the Clothier's Department who reside in your State to exert themselves to forward the Clothing, agreeably to the enclosed Requisition of Congress. I must also entreat your attention to the other Resolves herewith transmitted.

I have the Honor to be

Gentlemen,

Your most obedt &

Very h'ble Servt,

JOHN HANCOCK, Presidt.

Directed,

To Hônble Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania.

Council of Safety to Wm. Crispin, 1777.

In Council of Safety, Lancaster, Oct. 17th, 1777.

Sir,

As Council has not heard from you lately they are under some uneasiness, lest the Fleet in the Delaware may suffer for the want of Provisions, &c. I therefore request that you will attend to that matter and furnish every article that may be necessary. As the Commissary General of Purchases, Mr. Buchanan, has fixed the prices of Beef & Pork, the former at Ten Dollars ⅌ Ct., sinking the fifth quarter as he terms it, and Six Dollars ⅌ Ct. for Pork, the same prices must govern your purchases, and in future you are not to give a greater price than they allow for the necessarys wanted for the army, it is proper to mention to you that the price he has fixed

for pork we have hinted to him is in our opinion too low and desired he would reconsider it. I hope and expect the different Salt Works will furnish salt sufficient for this and the neighbouring states. A quantity of Beef and Pork should be Barrelled up for the use of our Navy, this you should Immediately attend to, and if money is wanted for this and other purposes of the State you will be furnished on application by Letter or otherwise to Council.

I am in behalf of the Council,

Sir, your very Humble Servant,

THO. WHARTON, Junr, Pres^t.

(Copy.)

Directed.

To William Crispin, Esq.

ARCHIBALD MCCLEAN, &c., TO V. P. GEO. BRYAN, 1777.

York, October, 17th, 1777.

Sir,

An Election has been held here, (in, we believe, an orderly manner,) under and in Pursuance of the Late Act of General Assembly of this State, Altho' the Number of Electors have been but very few, even of the Part of the Inhabitants, who have qualified themselves to be admitted to vote by taking the Test Required.

Amongst those elected is William Rowan and William Scott, for Sheriffs. The former we must from a Steady Principle of rendering Essential Service to the County, & not from private Views, Caprice, or Pique, inform the Council is not in our opinion capable or adequate to fill that important station either with reputation to himself, or to render suitable and the Requisite Service to the County. The Other, William Scott, is an Active, Vigilant, & popular Man, and very capable of the Execution of the office, but is at present a Major in the Militia, and absent on service, tho' expected home every day as the time of his Service is now expired. Also, he is at present one of our most serviceable Magistrates, and had just entered on the Execution of that Trust when called out. On the one hand we are not certain that he will accept the Shreivalty, and on the other, his Services will be m uch wanted as a Magistrate. Upon the Whole we would Rest the matter with the Council, only that we would humbly propose, That a Commission should not be granted to Mr. Rowan for a few days, until we can know the mind of Mr. Scott in the Premises, & which, when known, we will be careful to give immediate account thereof. In Regard to the opening of the Court,

the Term ensuing, we have stated our Difficulties to Mr. Morris, & are in hopes that through his goodness and Readiness to oblige us, the Council will previously give us such Directions, & send us such assistance as may be necessary, &c.

We are Sir,

with due Regard, your most
obedient humble Servants,

ARCH'D McCLEAN,
DAVID JAMESON,
WM. LEAS.

P. S. It is to be noted and particularly observed, that Mr. Rowan liveth about 30 miles from Town, and now at this Time of dearness of living & getting suitable Lodgings, & an apartment for an Office, the County must Expect to be as tho' we had no officer of that character: Whereas Mr, Scott is a Resident of the Town.

Directed,

To George Bryan, Esquire, Vice President of the Supreme Executive Council.

Council of Safety to Board of War, 1777.

In Council of Safety,
Lancaster, 18th Octr, 1777.

Sir,

We have this day received a letter from the Secretary of the Board of War respecting Fire Arms, Shoes, Blankets, Provisions, & other necessaries for the Army, & are heartily desirous of contributing all the assistance in our power to the procuring of these articles.

On the subject of Shoes, (a most essential article,) we find that some confusion has taken place by the different orders from your Board to the Commissary of Hides & others, particularly at this place. We would beg you to consider whether a plan might not be formed for confining the Commissary to the Business of curing and saving the Hides; he to deliver them to proper persons to be appointed in different places, who shall exchange them for wrought Leather & Shoes, wch when manufactured shall by them be delivered to the Clothier General. These persons might be appointed either by your Board or this, & should be enjoined to fulfil the Contracts of the Commissary of Hides already made. Business in this Way

we conceive, would be done with more Regularity and to better purpose.

The practice of some of your Commissaries in buying meat from the Butchers, instead of live Cattle, on many accounts requires to be restrained. The Skins are by this means lost to the publick, & the meat comes enormously high.

As to Stockings we believe great Quantities are in the Hands of your Clothier General. We doubt not Care will be taken for a proper Disposition of them.

We shall think it our Duty to join in conferring all necessary authority upon your officers where the good of the Service requires it; but we cannot forbear to hint that a more careful attention to the appointment of officers would be highly beneficial. These men in several instances by oppressing our Friends & exempting our secret Enemies from publick Burdens, that of Waggons being impressed in particular, have but too successfully contributed to impress people with the notion that it is most for their Interest to be Tories. In the Quarter-master's Line we shall mention one or two among those of whom we have heard Complain,—Mr Robert Lettis Hooper of Eastown, & Mr John Biddle of Reading. Others of this sort we shall take the liberty of naming as they come to our notice, & we really apprehend you will find upon enquiry that it will be necessary to make Examples of some of them.

We are, &c.

Directed,

To Hon. The Presidt of the Board of War.

General Armstrong to President Wharton, 1777.

Head Quarters, Worcester, 18th Octobr, 1777.

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to address and congratulate you on the intelligence of this morning, but a little lower than that which is Evangelical, and from the same source.

That on the 14th Instt General Burgoyne and the whole remains of his Army surrendered to General Gates and the Army under his Command! The Enemy were allowed to march out of their lines or Encampment with the honors of War, were to ground their arms at a particular spot, which was accordingly done. They are to be sent prisoners of War to the Massachusets Bay.

This is a blessing not only far exceeding America's merit, but even our most sanguine expectations, yet not too high for the God of Americans, the author of justice & beneficence to bestow.

The intelligence is come from Governor Clinton to General Putnam, & from him to our Commander in Chief. We believe it cannot

be doubted, and that two or three days will bring the confirmation and farther particulars from General Gates. The General has just now asked me to repair to you in order to concert measures to draw out the strength of this State to aid him in suppressing the arch tyrants now in Philad^a. I cannot refuse the journey, and shall, I suppose, set out in the morning. Please by some direct & early means to forward that to my wife, as in it an early foundation is laid for the people of Cumberland.

I have the honor to be

Most respectfully yours,

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

☞ But this moment we hear the Enemy are approaching us.

Directed.

On the Public Service.

To His Excellency Thos Wharton, Esqr, President of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

☞ Express.

Board of War to T. Matlack, 1777.

War Office, Octr 18th, 1777.

Sir,

I have laid your Letter relative to Arms before the Board agreeable to your request. They are not acquainted by any of the officers having Charge of arms of those said in your Letter to be at Bethlehem. There were some time ago between two & three hundred old Arms in bad order left at Bethlehem by the Continental Troops passing thro' that Place, & Mr. Okely, who had the care of them, wrote about two months ago that he was putting them into the hands of Workmen to be repaired, & that altho many had been repaired he had none fit for service, as all those repaired had been delivered out to the Militia of Northampton County. I have by Direction of the Board enclosed an Order agreeable to the Terms of your Letter, & am

your very obed^t

humble Servt,

RICHARD PETERS, Sec'y.

On public Service.

Directed,

To Col. Timothy Matlack, Secretary of the Supreme Ex. Council of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

War Office.

Richard Peters, Secy.

Board War to President Wharton, 1777.

War Office, York Town, Oct'r 18th 1777.

Sir,

I had the Honour of transmitting you the Resolves of Congress relative to the supply of the wants of the Army which are so numerous & pressing that without the speediest & most vigorous Exertions are made to answer the Demands made for the Articles, particularly enumerated in the Resolves, it will be impossible for the Troops to keep the Field, & Consequences the most alarming will therefore ensue.

I am directed to communicate to you for the consideration of the Council of Safety, that the Board have received Satisfactory Information that a great Number of the Inhabitants of the County of Chester, conveyed Intelligence, & supplied Provisions to the enemy during their Progress thro' that County, & without such assistance their attempt upon Philadelphia, would in all Probability not have succeeded. These Persons can be considered in no other Light than as Traitors to this State, & avowed enemies to the United States, & therefore the great principle of self Preservation requires that the most effectual means should be forthwith pursued to put it out of their Power to persist in their former Mal-Practices, by taking from them such Articles of Cloathing & Provisions, & of the former particularly shoes stockings, & Blanketts, as might serve for the comfort & Subsistence of the Enemy's Army, & the Acquisition whereof is of absolute Necessity to the existence of our own. The Board therefore earnestly request that the Council will with the utmost Dispatch call forth & send to the County of Chester, Spirited & determined Militia under the Command of discreet & active Officers for the Purpose of collecting Blanketts Shoes, & Stockings for the use of the American Army, from such of the Inhabitants of the said county as have not taken the oath or affirmation of allegiance to the State of Pennsylvania, & have shewn their attachment to the cause of the Enemy. The Board also requests that you will send careful persons to take charge of, & convey to places of safety such Articles as may be collected, & to give certificates expressing the Number & Quality of the Articles taken in order that compensation may be made at a reasonable rate to such, as may be deemed entitled thereto. It is also recommended to the Council that they cause to be removed all the stock, & provisions, which may be useful to the Enemy from all parts of the Country immediately exposed to their Incursions giving to the Possessors Certificates as aforesaid, & that this operation both with Regard to Cloathing, & Provisions be extended to any other Parts of this State wherein the Inhabitants have evidenced their Disaffection to the American Cause. It is apprehended that if General Washington is made acquainted by you of the Time when this Plan is to be carried into effect, he will probably order General Potter

or the commanding officer of the Militia now in that County to co-operate with the officers you may appoint for the Purposes before mentioned. As the occasion is pressing, the Board request your speedy answer.

I have the Honour
to be with great Respect
your very obed^t Servt
RICHARD PETERS, Sec^y.

P. S. All arms or warlike stores found in the Possession of the Persons described in the above Proposals should be taken from them.

Directed.

On the Service of the United States.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jr., Esq., President of the Council of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

General Gates to Pres't of Congress, 1777.

No. 1.

Camp at Saratoga, 18th October, 1777.

Sir,

I have the satisfaction to present your Excellency with the convention of Saratoga by which His Excellency Lt Gen. Burgoyne has surrendered himself & his whole Army into my hands & they are now upon their march to Boston, this signal and important event is the more glorious as it was effected with so little loss to the Army of the United States.

This Letter will be presented to your Excellency by Adj^t General Col. Wilkinson to whom I must beg leave to refer your Excellency for the particulars that brought this great business to so happy & fortunate a conclusion. I desire to be permitted to recommend this gallant officer in the warmest manner to Congress, & intreat that he may be continued in his present place with the Brivet of a Brigadier General. The Honble Congress will believe me when I assure them that from beginning of this war, I have not met with a more promising Military Genius than Colonel Wilkinson, and whose services have been of the greatest benefit to the Army.

I am
Sir,
your Excellency's most
obed^t humble Servant
HORATIO GATES.

Directed,

His Excellency John Hancock, Esquire.

General Gates to Maj. Gen. John Vaughan, 1777.

No. 2.

Albany, 19th October, 1777.

Sir,

With unexampled cruelty you have reduced the fine Village of Kingston to Ashes, & most of the wretched Inhabitants to ruin I am also informed you continue to ravage, & burn all before you on both sides the River. Is it thus your King's General thinks to make Converts to the Royal Cause?

It is no less surprizing than true, that the measures they adopt to serve their master have the quite contrary effect.

Their Cruelty establishes the glorious act of Independency upon the broad basis of the general resentment of the people.

Other Generals & much older officers than you can pretend to be are now by the fortune of War in my hands, their fortune may one Day be yours, when Sir it may not be in the power of any thing human to save you from the just vengeance of an injured people.

I am

Sir,

y^r most obed^t hum. Servt.

HORATIO GATES.

Directed,

The Honorable John Vaughan, Maj^r General.

Gen'l. Gates to President of Congress, 1777.

No. 3.

Albany, 20th October, 1777.

Sir,

Inclosed is the copy of a Letter I have this day sent to Major General Vaughan who I am told commands the burning party in Hudson's River, It goes by the boat that carries Gen. Burgoynes Officers to Sir Wm. Howe, such answer as I receive shall be sent to your Excellency.

I cannot close my Letter without requesting your Excellency to inform Congress of the great care & attention with which Doctor Potts, & the Gentlemen of the General Hospital have conducted the business of their department, I must beg that some honorary mark

of the favour of Congress may be shown to Doctor Potts, & his subordinate associates.

I am

Sir,

your Excellency's most

obed^t humble Servant

HORATIO GATES.

Directed,

His Excellency John Hancock, Esq.

ROB'T LETTIS HOOPER TO PRES'T WHARTON, 1777.

Easton, October 20, 1777.

Sir,

I received your Excellency's Letter of the 8th Instant, and have the pleasure to inform you, that I can hire in this county and in Sussex county in New Jersey, as many Teams as are from time to time necessary to answer the purposes in my Department, without being troublesome to your Excellency or the Magistrates of this County. I have never impressed any teams but when the exigency required their being provided with the utmost dispatch, and then those only who refused to serve and were unfriendly to our cause.

I have in almost every exegency called on the magistrates for their assistance, and will continue so to do.

I am

Sir,

your Excellency's

most hum^e Servant

ROB'T LETTIS HOOPER, jun'r.

Deputy Qu^r M. Gen'l.

Directed,

On publick Business,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq., at Lancaster.

WM. BUCHANNAN TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

York Town, 20th Octr, 1777.

Sir,

I am honoured with yours of the 16th Instant and am much rejoiced to find that your Assembly have empowered Gentn in Council of Safety so well disposed to take up a matter in my Opinion of the last Importance to America. The Regulations which may be made by Pennsylvania, will I make no doubt, soon spread their Influence through the Neighbouring States, and thereby most effectually serve the common Cause.

I acknowledge the Price proposed by me for Pork, though higher than usual, is not in Proportion to that of Beef or many other Articles, nor shall I contend for that or any other, but most chearfully join in Support of such Regulations as your Honble Board shall frame. Permit me, nevertheless, to submit the Principles on which I judged to your Consideration. And First, Six dollars is not only a generous Price, but far above what has been customary. Pork is yet in the hands of the original Owners by whom I may expect to have it as chearfully and readily brought to Market for 6 dollars, being early informed that that Price will not be exceeded, as they would for 8 or 10. A high price holds up the Idea of Scarcity, of which Mankind are too apt to take Advantage & to withold the Article in Expectation of one still higher. An extravagant Price for Beef has so long been submitted to, that to lower it very suddenly to a proper one, I feared might occasion a kind of Convulsion, and also ruin many well disposed Persons, who in the Way of their very useful Business (of grazing and feeding) have been in some Measure compelled to buy in poor Cattle at a very high Price. In Fact the Market for Beef has been grossly abused. That of Pork is not yet meddled with. Therefore, to fix a generous Price, and by Degrees try to bring other Articles to that Standard I judged adviseable, rather than follow that ruinous Rule of Proportion which in the Course of ten months has put almost every necessary of Life beyond the Reach of money. Your Board will be the best Judges of the Gradations by which the wished for Reform may most safely be effected without risking the Supplies for the Army and I should be glad to have your Determination as soon as possible, especially on the Article of Pork, as the Season for it, approaches fast.

I have the honour to be

Sir, your mo: Obdt hble Servt,

WM. BUCHANNAN, C. G. of P.

Directed,

The Honourable Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Resolution of Council, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster October 21, 1777

Ordered,

That Col[l] Evan Evans, Col[l] William Evans, Col[l] Thomas, Col[l] Gibbons, Cap[t] Thomas Levis, Cap[t] William Brooks and Cap[t] Jacob Rudolph be authorized and required to collect without delay from such of the inhabitants of the county of Chester as have not taken the oaths of allegiance & abjuration, or who have aided or assisted the enemy, arms & accoutrements, Blankets, Shoes & Stockings for the use of the army; that they appraise the same when taken according to their quality, allowing at the rate of three pounds for a new single blanket and give certificates for the same to the owners. That they call to their aid the Militia of this Common Wealth, who are hereby ordered to obey and assist them in the execution of this order, and that they deliver the same, so taken, to the order of the Clothier General, or his agent, with whom they are to correspond in the discharge of this business.

Extract from the minutes,

TY. MATLACK, Sec'y.

A Committee for the above mentioned purpose is appointed for the County of Lancaster, and it is under consideration of Council to appoint the most spirited Gentlemen in several other counties to execute this business.

T. M.

Extract of a letter from General Washington, 1777.

dated Oct. 21, 1777.

I heartily wish the States may feel the inportance of filling their battalions, & may in consequence of the recomendation of Congress adopt such measures as will prove effectual for the purpose. I cannot but think that heretofore, there has been a want of attention in this instance, & that the subject, though interesting to the last degree, has been viewed with too much indifference. The resolution respecting deserters, I hope will also have their notice. It is highly necessary, that they should come into some regulations for apprehending them, & punishing those who give them countenance. If this is not done, our force will be always diminishing & no exertions in the army will prevent it. I shall try the effects of a proclamation on those who are now delinquents, & shall be happy if it meets with success, but confess from the experiment I have made that I am not sanguine in my expectations that it will be the case.

As to the recruiting officers, I must observe that notwithstanding the resolution of Congress of the 31 of July, & my circular letter on the subject of it to many of the States, I have not received an account that any officers have been appointed except in Connecticut & Jersey.

Extract,

CHA'S THOMSON, Sec'y.

SECRETARY MATLACK TO COL. JOSEPH REED, 1777.

Lancaster, October, 21, 1777.

Sir,

His Excellency the President received your letter by the last express, for which the Council thank you, and at the same time request a continuance of your correspondence. Last evening an express from General Mifflin past thro here for York-town, he informs that the enemy had left Philadelphia on Sunday and that a party had been dispatched yesterday morning by Gen' Washington to harrass their rear, a confirmation of this, we are anxiously waiting for. The glorious news from the northward had prepared the peoples minds here for very important consequences, and I hope they will not be disappointed. Congratulations are heard in every street & in ever house. I feel the joy which animates every honest Breast as I am sure you do.

I am Sir,

Your very Hum. servant,

T. M.

Directed,

To Col. J. Reed, at camp.

R. M'CALESTER TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Hanover Town, 23d of October, 1777.

Sir,

After a hard struggle it appears, shall subdue those Refractory set of People, which was more than the half of this County, the fines being nearly colected, at least in the uper end, where I live & have Ordered the 2d & 3d Classes to march on Monday next, amongst those who Refused to Submit the others being sometime gon; the officers

complain for want of their comishions & should be Extreamly glad they could be silenced in that matter, I sent sometime past by Mr. Armor for them, y^r exslency give me to know they were w^h other things sent to Easton, should they be arived w^d be glad they could have them before they goo.

I am w^h due Respect y^r.

Excellencies Most ob^t

Hu^bl Servt

RICH^d M^cALESTER.

Directed,

To Excelency Thomas Wharton, Esq, President of the Executor Council of the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster

℘ Philip Shull, Express.

MEMORANDA OF EXPRESSES, &c., 1777.

Octob^r 23, 1777.

Felix Malglasky was sent express to Bethlehem for the Arms belonging to the continent to be brought here and tried.

And by him were sent the orders to Jacob Morgan, Esqr, for calling out the fifth & sixth classes of Berk Militia, and the order to John Wietzel, Esq., for calling out the fifth & sixth classes of the Northampton Militia, with orders to deliver both these letters with his own hands, as directed, or to leave them at the houses of the persons to whom they are directed.

24. To Col. Smith of Chester County, by Capt. Jn. Gardener.

To Col. McCallister, (with Commissions for the Militia officers of the county) ℘ Philip Shull, and also to John Carothers, Esqr, Cumberland Co.

By Jacob S. Howell,

To Col. Coats (& copy) } Orders, Proclamations & Addresses.
To Col. Kirkbride, }
To Com. Hazlewood, Proclamations & Addresses.
To James & Jno. Wharton.
To Capt. Blewer, Proc. & Ad.
To Mr^s. Matlack, &c.

25. To Bartram Galbraith, d^o, to himself in person.

To Col. Hunter, by Col. Cuninghame.

26. Mich^l Reinhart, sent express to head qr^rs with 2 letr^s for Jo^s Reed & one for Mr. Payne.

31. Sullivan sent express to head quarters,
To Col. Gronow and Col. .
To Committee for seizing tory property of Bucks, Philad^a city & county, and county of Chester.
To Col. Reed & Mr. Paine & divers private letters.

Circular Letter of Council to Lieutenants.

In Council, Lancaster, October 23^d, 1777.

Sir,

General Washington hath written to this Council in the most pressing terms, requesting from this state a more effectual aid of men and arms than has hitherto been afforded him; and expressing his great surprise to find the good people of this commonwealth so extreamly backward to take the field in their own defence. The Council has ordered from the several counties such a number of militia, as had the classes turned out in the manner they ought to have done, would have prevented this just reflection, and, probably would have finished the campaign before this day, greatly to the advantage of the cause of liberty and highly to the honour of the state. But it is not yet too late to attack General Howe and drive him with disgrace from our country.

The Council do therefore hereby order that the classes of the militia of your county be immediately sent forward according to law and join General Washington with the greatest expedition. To spend time in the hiring of substitutes is to little purpose, except a few, just to fix the sum which shall be levied on delinquents refusing to go out in their turn. The freemen of the state must defend themselves or tamely bear the calamities of war, and the too certain plundering and ravages of the enemy. And if you do not find these classes turn out generally you are hereby authorised and required immediately to call out and send forward to camp the next two classes also. Such persons as have not gone out in their turn in the classes heretofore called, who will turn out in the classes now called, their services will be received as a full compensation for their former neglect. Volunteers who turn out on this great occasion will deserve and meet with every possible encouragement.

You are to use every possible means to furnish the men now called out with arms, accoutrements and blankets; and encourage every man to do this for himself, as far as he is able, you are to have every man's arms, accoutrements and blankets fairly appraised, that he may be paid for them if lost in the service. And you are to purchase as many arms, accoutrements and blankets as can be had. If more can be procured than will be necessary for your classes send

them forward to General Armstrong at camp and take his receipt for them.

The animating example of the Eastern states who have nobly exerted themselves in the cause of liberty, we hope will excite you to a like virtuous exertion. They by joining the continental army under General Gates in sufficient numbers have totally broken the enemys army under General Burgoine, and taken him and all that are left of his men and officers prisoners with their arms, baggage and cannon. This glorious action will be recorded in history greatly to their honour and establish their reputation for ages. And there is every reason to hope and expect with the blessing of God that a like virtuous and manly effort, on the part of our militia, will be equally effectual in destroying the remainder of the King of England's army now under the command of General Howe, in Philadelphia, the capital of this commonwealth, and by this means fix the peace and glory of the freemen of this State on a firm basis. On the contrary if we sit supinely and suffer our enemies to possess our capital without one manly effort for its relief, how disgraceful, how destructive will this be.

N. B. You are to send no more than a proper proportion of officers to the number of men.

An ordinance is preparing for the more effectual and immediate collecting of substitute money, which the council is determined to carry into execution by compulsive means if no other will answer the purpose.

Obligation of Sundry Persons to Appear, 1777.

We the subscribers do promise & engage each for himself to appear before the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania, whenever we shall be called upon, to answer for such Matters as have or shall be alledged against us by the Lieutenants of this County of Lancaster or others. Witness our Hand this 23d Octr, 1777.

John Miller,
Peter Christ,
Gottlob Jungmann,
Matth. Zahm,
Martin Hirt,
Jacob Cassler,
Christian Leinbach,
Michael Kreitee,
Jacob Erb,
George Miller.
John Angle,
and some others.

President Wharton to Commodore Hazelwood, 1777.

In Council,

Lancaster, Oct. 24, 1777.

Sr,

I wrote to you a few Days ago in answer to your letter in Comp with Col. Bradford, and sent it to Head Quarters, to be forward.

Council is apprehensive you are in want of Money to pay the Fleet; they have therefore sent Mr J. S. Howell with Nine thousand Dollars to be delivered to the Paymaster, and has orders if a further Sum is wanted, either for the Paymaster or Commissary, to endeavor to borrow it and Council will take Care that it be soon repaid.

If any difficulty should arise in Procuring provisions for the Fleet, the enclos'd warrant can be made use of. If there should be an absolute necessity to procure provisions for the fleet out of the State of New Jersey, the council have no doubt if application be made to Govr Livingston he will immediately order them to be supplyed. Council has heard with pleasure the brave defence that hath been made by the Fleet under your command, and the Fort, and flatter themselves that from your good Conduct and perseverance, and the activity and bravery of the men, the enemy will be totally repulsed, A very great firing has been heard for two days past. I anxiously wait the event.

I am,

with much respect to the officers of the Fleet and Army,

Sir,

your very humble servant,

THOMAS WHARTON, junr, Presidt.

Commr Hazelwood. (Copy.)

P. S. Since writing the within, we have the glorious news that you repulsed the enemy and destroyed two of the King of Great Britain's ships in their attempt to weigh the Chevaux D'Frize. Very soon I expect to have this confirmed, and to hear the enemy are retreating. General Washington, I expect, will soon give a good account of the army. Thank God for all his favours! The day is, I hope, near at hand, when we can say with safety that America is free and Independent.

ADieu,

Your very humble Servant,

THOMAS WHARTON, junr, Presidt.

PRES. WHARTON TO GENL. WASHINGTON, 1777.

Lancaster, 24 Octr, 1777.

Sir,

I had the Honour of receiving your favour of the 17th Inst., which was immediately laid before Council.

In Consequence of this Application we have ordered out two Classes of Militia, offering an Exemption from their Fines to such Delinquents of the former Classes as can be prevailed upon to join them, & have invited all of every Class to turn out as Volunteers. The Lieutenants have orders, if they do not find these two classes turn out generally, to order to Camp the next two succeeding Classes. To encourage the people to exert themselves with Alacrity we have published an Address, offering every Motive we could suggest to stimulate our Constituents to their duty.

What Numbers may be drawn forth into Service in Consequence of these Measures we cannot possibly ascertain with precision, but believe they will be more than we can possibly arm. If you should think proper to encourage our Calling forth unarmed men under the prospect of their finding Arms at Camp, we will endeavour to do more; but from the View your Letter presents of the Want of that necessary Article with You, we think it unnecessary to take further Measures at present to draw forth a Multitude of People who cannot afford any Service.

The other important Subject mentioned in your Letter of taking Measures for compleating our Continental Battallions I shall communicate to the Legislature as soon as they meet.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

(COPY.) LETTER FROM THOS. HARTLEY TO ———, 1777.

Camp, October 24th, 1777.

Dear Sir,

I received your last—be assured that there is no one fonder than myself of conveying good intelligence, nor no one would be more desirous of keeping up a correspondence with the good people of Lancaster than myself, but we are so often pinched in time and place, that you may frequently be disappointed in expecting to hear from me; however, I shall do as well as I can.

Yesterday, a body of our army advanced towards the city: the pickets were drove in and not supported; our troops paraded some time along their front, but received very little injury; we took some prisoners.

On the evening of the 22d, six of the enemies best Ships came up the river past the first set of frixes, and cannonaded our fort and vessels exceeding warmly indeed; they continued the same the next morning; our people on proper occasions returned the fire. The firing was superior to that at Sullivan's Island. We were all anxiety to know what would be the consequence of this thundering contest. We had detachments near the city on both sides of the Schuylkill to attack if an opportunity offered, but it seems there was none.

About eleven o'Clock we heard a monstrous explosion which shook the neighbouring country, and a prodigious column of smoak rose towards the heavens. We feared that it might be the magazine at the fort; better fortune awaited America—there were few shot fired afterward.

Our people at the tide of Ebb sent down a few fire rafts or vessels among the enemy, one of which proved successful; the Augusta of 64 guns caught fire and was blown up; the rest of the fleet retreated—our vessels pursued—some other fire vessels were sent after, and a thirty two gun frigate shared the same fate with the Augusta. May they meet with the like success in all future attempts. Our troops in the fort and the gallies must be in high spirits. The enemys must soon consider themselves in a bad way. The Northern news is confirmed—General Howe must think of retreating immediately. If there was a true spirit of liberty in this State, the army under General Howe would be in a more dangerous situation than Burgoine ever was. They have, it seems, but 18 Transports on this side New-castle. A Lethargy seems to prevail among the people; can neither honour, glory or Interest rouse them to join in expelling these invaders?

With the help of God, if the people at large will not assist, I hope we may soon give a good account of these intruders with our little army.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your most Obedient,
humble Servant,
THOS. HARTLEY.

(Copy.) Letter Adam Hubley to ———, 1777.

Camp, October 24th, 1777.

All is well on and about Delaware. I wrote you yesterday, giving you an account of a most heavy firing at the forts, which lasted upwards of seven hours successively without intermission.

By express just arrived we have the following particulars. That

early on the morning of yesterday, the Augusta man of war of 64 guns, with sundry frigates and a number of smaller vessels, came up the Delaware in order to make an attack, when they were received by our row Gallies below the forts; at the same time the fort on red bank was attacked by about 2000 Troops (chiefly Hessians) under the command of Count Danupe. A most severe engagem^t ensued, both by land and water, and whilst thus engaged, our Commodore dropt down a number of our fire rafts amongst the Caitiff's fleet, whilst our brave troops nobly defended their ground at the bank, and about 12 o'Clock, thro' the intrepidity of our land forces, and good effects the rafts, with the assistance of the gallies produc'd, put an end to that ever memorable day's work. Our loss on this occasion is inconsiderable. The enemies loss is as follows, viz., on the water, the Augusta of 64 guns and the Dantrige frigate of 32 guns blown up by the rafts, three boats loads only of both crews being saved; also one frigate run aground, which our people are endeavouring to get off, but if they find it impracticable, they undoubtedly will destroy it.

By land,

Count De-Naupe was mortally wounded and fell in our hands, a considerable number killed, (not yet ascertained) and 180 prisoners taken, with 12 pieces of brass artillery.

We are just informed, another expedition is forming by Howe against red-bank, to consist of British troops; the remainders of Danupe's party returned with infamy to Philad^a this day, and their fleet dropt down the river with the same credit, bemoaning their loss. Whilst our brave miskeetoe fleet, as the caitiffs chuse to call it, are returning to their respective stations, and with their land brethern celebrate the ever memorable 23^d day of October.

Copy.

John Clark to Paul Zantzinger, 1777

Goshen, Octr 24th, 1777.

Sir,

Yesterday Morning at 6 the Enemy attacked fort Mifflin, two Ships of Force attempted the Chevaux de frize but were so injured the Men soon abandoned them having first set them on Fire & they soon blew up. The Explosion was great, a party also attempted to land on Mud Island in Boats; but were defeated with great loss. 3000 attacked red Bank on the Jersey Shore at the same time. The Cannonade was continued from all sides without Intermission till four in the Afternoon, at which time the Ships blew up. I believe this the last effort. Every preparation is made for precipitate Re-

treat. Genl Washington is advancing towards the City. I congratulate you on the above.

I am &c.,
JOHN CLARK.

P. S. This will be delivered to you by my Express to Congress. My Informant a Spy was an Eye Witness to the whole.

Directed,
To Paul Zantzinger, Esqr.

Proclamation by his Excellency George Washington, 1777.

Proclamation By his Excellency George Washington, Esqr, General and Commander in Chief of the Forces of the United States of America.

Whereas sundry Soldiers belonging to the armies of the said States have deserted from the same; These are to make known to all those who have so offended, and who shall return to their respective corps, or surrender themselves to the Officers appointed to receive recruits and deserters in their several States, or to any Continental Commissioned Officer, before the first day of January next, that they shall obtain a full and free pardon. And I do further declare to all such obstinate offenders as do not avail themselves of the indulgence hereby offered, that they may depend, when apprehended, on being prosecuted with the utmost rigour, and suffering the punishment justly due to crimes of such enormity.

Lest the hope of escaping punishment by remaining undiscovered, should tempt any to reject the terms now held out to them, they may be assured, that the most effectual measures will be pursued in every State for apprehending and bringing them to a speedy trial.

Given under my hand at head quarters this 24th day of October Anno. Domini, 1777.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

By his Excellency's Command, Robert H. Harrison, Sec'y.

[Copy]

Col. Joseph Reed to President Wharton, 1777.

Anth^y Morris's House, 11 Miles from Philad.
Chester County, Oct. 24th, 1777, 8 °Clock, P. M.

Sir,

I received Mr Matlack's Favour last Evening. The Intelligence of the Enemy's leaving Philad. was premature. I saw them yesterday on the opposite side from Beveridges House, where I breakfasted. In order to facilitate their Operations on the Fort by sending Detachments to Jersey & Province Island, they were obliged to contract their Lines. Accordingly on Sunday, about 11 o'Clock, they retirod from Germantown & its Neighbourhood as low as Peale Hall on the Falls Road, extending from thence on their left to Schuilkill, and their Right to Kensington—On this Line they have thrown up a Number of Redoubts & otherwise strengthned it so as to enable them to detach with Safety. On Sunday, we had Intelligence that 113 Waggons, with an Escort of 1500 Men, had pass'd over the lower Ferry to go down to the ships for Provisions. General Green was ordered to pass the Schuylkill to attack them, but a heavy Shower coming up before he reach'd the River, he returned as he had been directed in Case of Rain. A Council was then held, & a Majority being of Opinion that it was not yet too late, Genl McDougal was ordered to proceed on the same Business. When he had cross'd the River & pass'd about 2 Miles he found that the Waggons had returned the preceding Evening by Way of the blue Bell. And that what was supposed to be an Escort was a large Detachment who proceeded no farther than Gray's Ferry, where they took Post & began to fortify in order to protect the Bridge, which by this Time was completed. Upon this it was determined to strengthen McDougal, & order him to proceed & attack this Body & destroy their Bridge As I had determined to accompany Green, I proceeded with McDougal. We cross'd the River about 10 Miles from Philad^a. The whole Detachment when joined by Genl Potter made about 4000 Men; tho' they had march'd all the Night before, & cross'd the River twice, they went back with great Spirits. We reached the Ground about Sunrise, & to our great Surprise found the Post had been evacuated the preceding Evening, & their Bridge broken to Pieces. The Detachment, after destroying their Huts, Works, &c., returned to Camp. I stayed here with a small Party of Horse for some Purposes not proper to be trusted to a Letter.—On the 22^d, in the Afternoon, there was a heavy Cannonade, followed by the hottest Fire of Musquetry I ever heard, & lasted for full half an Hour. We supposed it to be at Red bank where the Gallies lay—Col. Greene, of Rhode Island, with about 400 Men, lays at that Post. We have not heard the Issue with Certainty, but from many Circumstances have little Reason to doubt but the Enemy was repulsed in an Attempt to storm it. That they

went on this Errand, we had certain Intelligence from Town, with the Circumstance that the General had promised the Hessian Grenadiers 200 Guineas if they succeeded. This Day, I suppose, will bring us the Account with some Certainty. As to the Fort, it continues its gallant Defence, & has sufficiently demonstrated the Error of that Opinion which led to a total Demolition of that Work.

Yesterday Morning, about Sunrise, a most furious Cannonade began, & from the Heighths of Schuylklill we could discern it to be from some ships which seems to confirm a Report that 2 Ships had pass'd the lower Chevaux de frize. However, the Event was happy —For tho' we were at one Time apprehensive the Fort was on Fire, it proved to be a Ship. About 1 °Clock there was a heavy Explosion; Genl Potter saw it plainly, & is sure it was of a very large Ship below the Chevaux de frize. Soon after there was another something smaller, supposed to be of another Vessel. This is the best State of Things I can give you, & I cannot but congratulate you & the Gentlemen with you, upon it. I assure you, in my Judgment there is a happy Prospect of a speedy & glorious End to the Contest. If the Fort still holds out (& we have thrown a fresh supply of Ammunition & Provisions for 6 Weeks into it) the Enemy must leave Philad^a. After every species of Distress to the Inhabitants, without much Distinction, Gen. Howe finds himself pinch'd for Provisions, especially Bread. The allowance is small, & his Troops begin to complain.—There being no Change in our Affairs for the worse, in about 8 Days I think they will quit Philad^a.

I do not know whether Col^l Bayard is with you, but if he is you will oblige me by communicating this Letter to him, as it will comply with my Promise of giving him Information of Occurrencies.

I am, with much Respect & Regard,
Dr Sir,
Your most Obedt & very Hble Serv.,
JOS. REED.

For the first Time these 2 Weeks, there has been a total Silence at the Fort the whole Morning.

Directed.

To His Excell., Thomas Wharton, Esq., Presid^t of the Council of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

FROM COL. JOSEPH REED TO———, 1777.

Darby, Oct. 25, 1777.

A Deserter from the Regiment of Losberg says that he came over the Middle Ferry last Night with 200 Men—100 for Guard, & 100 for Fatigue. No other Troops there. Three Regim^ts of British & 2 Hessian ordered over to Redbank last Night. The Hessian Grena-

diers lost 800 Men in the late Attack. Count Donop lost his leg. Col. Menginrode killed on the spot. Col. Shick died of his Wounds before he got to Philad. Eight Captains killed & wounded. But 80 of the Grenadiers left who went on the Attack. The Hessians much discontented with their Duty—had no Bread for 4 Days; no Pay since they left New York. They were out of Meat for some Time, but got a late Supply of Provisions from the Ships. Their duty very hard—constantly on Guard or Fatigue. He left his Post about 2 °Clock this Morning, with his Comrade, who was retaken. They deserted for fear the Regiment should be ordered to Redbank. The Talk of the Camp is, that the Bridge at the Middle Ferry is laid over in order to attack the Army on this Side. That they must retreat in a few Days to Wilmington if they cannot get up their Shipping. Great Distress for Provisions in Town. All those who were able that went to Redbank to attack the Fort on Wednesday, have returned. Count Donop commanded in that Attack. He does not think there are above 4000 Hessians now left fit for Duty out of the 12,000 which first arrived & their Reinforcements since.*

Extract of a Letter from Hugh Smyth, Esq., Postmaster, 1777.

Extract of a Letter from Hugh Smyth, Esqre, Post Master at Head Quarters, dated Octr 25th, 1777.

"The Day before yesterday between 12 & 1500 Hessians, headed "by Count Donop, their Chief, crossed the Delaware to attack "the Fort at Red Bank. When they came before it, they sum-"moned the Garri^n to surrender—the answer was defiance, &c. "Immediately the action commenced hot & obstinate on both sides, "when after a smart Engagement the Hessians gave Way; their "killed & wounded are pretty nigh 800. Count Donop wounded, "& a Prisoner together with his Aid, &c^a, & one Colonel. Our "men never quitted their Quarters, & of Course were not exposed "to the Enemy's Fire. Our loss is two killed, & eleven wounded; "this is almost incredible, but I assure you 'tis Fact."

"Yesterday the *Experiment*, a 64 Gun-ship, laid siege to our "Fort, & began the most furious Cannonade I ever heard, which "continued 'till about Noon, when she was set on Fire, & shortly "after exploded. The shock was felt at Camp, several Windows "being broke close by us. About an Hour after we heard another "Explosion; sad were our Conjectures on this Occasion—thinking

* There is no signature or direction to this, but it is evidently in the same handwriting as the preceding letter.

"it was our Magazine at the Fort. But lo! the Cloud bursts, & an "Express arrives with the News of a 64 Gun-ship & Frigate's being "blown up by our incessant firing & fire Works, &c.

"Head Quarters are 16 miles from Philad, on the old York "Road."

George Ross, Jr., to Captain Hayes, 1777.

Sir,

Mr. Crabb Informs me that you have press'd a team that he brought down to carry Liquor to Camp. You have no right to press a Team when there is a quarter-master for that Purpose. All Press'd Teams look to me for their Pay, but this man can get his from no Person as he is press'd without authority. I expect you will immediately give up the team, & make a regular application to me for one if wanted.

Yrs,

G. ROSS, Jr, Qtr Master.

Lancr, 25th Octr, 1777.

Directed,

To Capt. Hays.

Archibald McClean to President Wharton, 1777.

York, Octor 25th 1777,
11 °Clock on Saturday, A. M.

After Craving the Pardon and indulgence of the Council, for which my so often troubling them doth require apology, having the the Establishment of order and Government as far as necessary, convenient, and practicable amongst us, again restored, and being determined to do every thing in my Power for the effecting thereof, as far as my knowledge extends, much at Heart, and being at present laid under unexpected Embarrassments, which have approached in an unforseen manner, I think it my Duty to communicate them to Council, and humbly Crave the assistance and Direction which can in the present Circumstances be afforded, and of which on a full Information thereof Council can & will be the most competent Judges, as also of the Remedies adequate for the Relief thereof. An Election for the various Officers of the County, which the Laws do require, hath been held here under the direction of Wm. Rowan, Sheriff; the returns were made out, and the proper papers delivered him by the Judges, &c. I saw him in the Evening before the busi-

ness was compleated; requested his stay until morning, that a sure Plan might be laid down and adopted for the opening and holding the ensuing Court, now near approaching, as I then had that matter under consideration with Mr. Morris, who was occasionally here. Notwithstanding which he went away about 8 o'clock at Night of the Thursday next after the Election, and I have not seen nor heard from him since.

By Mr. Morris I wrote to Council of his unfitness for the Office, & the inconveniencies we may be subjected to by Reason of the local situation of his Residence, and Recommended Mr. William Scott, the other Person on the Return, with him, but he being in the Militia, and not Returned nor Consulted, I could not answer for him, but would endeavour to inform the Council of his Mind as soon as possible. He is not yet come home; I am informed he is sick in Chester County, but expected home every Day, and I as yet do not know that he will serve, but doth know that he is suitable, capable, & agreeable to the people, and I presume he may be prevailed on to accept. A Precept was issued for the Summoning Juries, &c^a, upon the 18th Instant, and it yet remains in the Office for want of an Officer to execute it. Notices were also prepared, to be distributed throughout the County, for the Publick housekeepers to attend, but for want of Officers I am yet obliged to keep them. I sent an Express on the Day before yesterday for Mr. Rowan to come immediately here—but he hath not come—by which I informed him that the Court could be opened by his attendance under the Commission he already hath, as that was in Force until a new one would Issue. What his reasons are for this unaccountable conduct I know not, but sure I am that it much distresseth me, and I know no adequate Remedy. I am now called home, about 18 miles hence, and will be here early on Monday Morning in order to give all due attendance in my power, and would yet hope that the Sheriff will give attendance that at least the Court may be opened if nothing else can be done.

I fully hope for and expect the attendance and assistance of Mr. Morris, or some other Gentleman of the Law; here I have none to advise with or give me any assistance either in Matter or Form.

The kind assistance & directions of the Council will be thankfully received & acknowledged.

I am,
may it please your Excellency,
your Excellency's
most obliged
humble servant,
ARCH^d McCLEAN.

Directed,
His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Junr, Esquire, President of the Supream Executive Council.

Col. Flower to President Wharton, 1777.

Allen Town, 26 Octob^r, 1777.

Hon^d Sir,

I have just received inclosed from Mr. Okely, a Letter of your Excellency's to him ordering a Number of arms and a cask of oil to be sent on to Lancaster, by Mr. McGlasky, which order I have sent one of my Comy^rs of stores to Bethleham to execute without Delay, and shall ever be happy in attending to every order in my power, your Excellency may please to issue.

I have the Hon^r

to be your

Excellencys most Obed^t

Very Hum^l Servt

BENJ. FLOWER.

P. S. There is a Box of Gun Locks in the possession of John Hubley, Esq., Com^y of stores at Lancaster which if your Excellency thinks proper may be procured and delivered to your Order as I have wrote to him ordering the same, they cost thirty shillings a piece purchased of Bayard & Co. No locks in our possession the property of the State nor no return ever received from Mr. Dehaven since we left Philada., of the Stores under his care belonging to the United States.

B. F.

Directed,

The Hon^e Thos Wharton, Esq., Presid^t of the Executive Council Lancaster.

☞ Express.

Wm. Crispin to President Wharton, 1777.

At Red Bank, Octr 26th, 1777,

Sir,

I received your Letter Dated Lan^r ye 17th Instant, The fleet is Plentifully supplyed with every Necessary, The Greatest Difficulty will be to get rum as we are just out, I should be glad if I could get some whiskey from Lancaster as there is None to be got here; I this Morning spoke to Mr Hog who purchases Cattle for the Continental army; & showed him your Requests Relative to the Price of Beef, & Pork; He said that there could None be got for that Price; & that

the Country would Rise if they thought their Cattle would be taken at that Price, in short it seems not Practable; I shall want some Money, & I Think 5 or six Thousand Pound will do for the present as Mr. Bradford the Bearer hereof is a safe Hand, Not knowing when I shall have the like opportunity; I had a Letter from Mr. Savage at the State Salt Works, sent him Three hundred Pounds which he rote to me for he informs me that he has Salt by him, & is Daily Making more, & says that he can procure Beef, for salt & Desired if he was to put it up that I would send him a Cooper for that purpose Ever since I have Been here the Movements of the Enemy has been such that I have had no opportunity of Getting one; I Desired him to send salt to Bordentown, Directed to the Care of Mr. Borden, & To Morrow I Intend to set of for that Place, if Not Blocked in here as the Enemy has this Morning Landed a Number of Men below at Billingsport; What their Designs is Cannot yet Learn. I think if Mr. Borden will undertake to Put up Pork for our State he would be a good hand, should be glad of your Direction in that Matter.

I am

with Respect

yours to serve

WM. CRISPIN, Com^ry.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, President of The State of Pensylvania.

Favoured by
Mr. Bradford

Col. Bradford to President Wharton, 1777.

Off Red Bank, October 27, 1777.

Sir,

I have been absent from this place for some time up to Burlington Borden Town & Trenton, after necessaries for the fleet and to hurry the Commissaries in their Duty, Last Monday evening was returning but when I got within two miles of Cooper's Ferry, I was informed the enemy had just landed a number of Troops, which obliged me to return, by which I lost by all accounts, one of the finest sights ever saw in these Parts, My absence prevented me sending your Excelleney an account of the action, but shall mention something of it now.

The 22d Instant about 4 o'clock, the Enemy to the number of about 1500 appeared before the Fort at Red Bank, and immediately began a most furious Cannonade, for about 15 minutes, when they

rushed on with great Resolution to storm the Fort, and got into the upper part of the old works which were not finished, and gave three cheers, thinking all was their own, but were received so warmly that they were glad to get out. They endeavoured to force thro' the abettes that were before the Fort, and some even got over the Ditch and were killed within the Pickets, after about 40 minutes action they took to their heels and ran off with great Precipitation. The enemy had about 100 killed on the Field, among which were one Lieut. Colonel, and four Captains. They left about 80 wounded, among which were Count Denope their Commander, who lays at Red Bank with his thigh Broke; and his Brigade Major wounded in three places —near thirty of their wounded are since Dead—We had in the Fort at Red Bank Two Regiments of Rhode Island Troops under the Command of Col. Green, consisting of about 600 Men & Officers. We are informed the Enemy carried over to Philadelphia not less than 800 Wounded. The Inhabitants that saw the enemy march Down say, they had 14 pieces of cannon with them & returned with six. If this should be the case they must have thrown them into Timber Creek, as we have taken none.

The next Day the 23d the Augusta of 64 Guns, the Roebuck of 44. Two Frigates and the Merlin of 18 Guns came up as near as they dare to the upper Chevaux de Frize, when a most furious Engagement ensued between the Galleys & Floating Batters, with the Enemys ships, the Fire was so incessant, that by all accounts the Elements seemed to be in flames, about 12 o'clock the Augusta blew up, whether by accident or from our shot is unknown, having taken Fire some Time before. Here presented a glorious sight before she blew, she laying Broadside too aground, and the Flames issuing thro every Port she had. The action still continued with the other ships and at Three o'clock the Merlin took Fire & blew up also, being aground, and then the Fire soon ceased. Thus ended two glorious Days—Yesterday the Commodore ordered five Galleys down to the wrecks. Two Frigates that lay near them immediately weighed and went down as low as the lower Chevaux de Frize, many of the boats went on board and I had the Pleasure of being on board of Part of a 64 Gun Ship—most of her Guns are in the wreck and we brought off two of her 24 Pounders, and this Day are preparing to get the rest, if the ships do not come to near us—The smaller ships Guns are also easily to be got, I think they are nine Pounders, which make me think she is a 20 Gun ship, and not the Merlin—The people on board the Augusta must have gone off with great Precipitation, as we have among the rubbish found great number of Cloaths, part of their Books, &c., &c., that they seem to have taken nothing with them but what they had on.

Three of the Fire Brigs and one Fire ship were sent down on the Enemy, but their shot flew so thick around them and indeed cut their rigging so much, that the crews got frightned and set them on Fire so soon, that they were burnt in vain—The last action reduced our

Ammunition very low; but this Day we have received a supply of near 1400 Cartredges—One waggon load was lost coming over Timber Creek with the Ammunition in it.

I am

Your Excellencys

most H^ble Servt

WM. BRADFORD.

Directed,

His Excellency Thos. Wharton, Esq., President of the State of Pensylvania at Lancaster.

Colonel Bull to President Wharton, 1777.

Sir,

As we have good news from Diferent quarters I take the liberty of sending you an extract from General orders containing the substance of what has lately happened below Philad^a, which is as Followeth, Viz^t, "The General again congratulates the Troops on the "success of our arms. On Wednesday last a body of about Twelve "Hundred Hessians, under the comand of Count Donop, made an "attack on Fort Mercer, at Red Bank, and after an action of forty "minutes were repuls'd with Great loss, Count Donop himself is "wounded and taken Prisoner, Together with his Brigade Major, "and about one Hundred other officers and soldiers taken prisoners "and about One Hundred were left dead on the field, and as they "Carried off a great many of their wounded their whole loss is pro-"bably at Least Four Hundred, our loss was trifling, the Killed and "wounded amounting only to about thirty two. The next morning "a number of the Enemies ships came up and attacked Fort Mifflin "and after a severe Canonade of several Hours the ships thought "proper to retire, but in retiring a 64 gun ship and a frigate Run "aground, and were burnt, &c., &c."

Perhaps Troubling your Excelency with a Particular account of my misfortunes would be Tedious & shall therefore only Briefly mention some of them. Genl How gave his word to Mrs. Bull that no part of my Property should be taken or destroyed. Nevertheless almost as soon as he left the house fire was set to the barn, barracks & stacks of grain, and a British Guard placed around to prevent our People from being Extinguish'd, therefore the whole of Grain & Hay with many other things of Value were Burnt and stock of Horses, Wagons, Cows, Sheep & Negroes were taken off with many other valuable articles & some Papers, among which were a few receipts. Mrs. Bull was intending at that time to remove the stock,

but happened to be too late. She is gone with my distress'd family into a strange land and as soon as we have drove the Philistians from Philad^a shall be glad to see them. At present I am unable (if I was desirous) by reason of a violent Cold and Pain in my Limbs, occasion'd by a fall of my horse in the River Shulkil in conducting some general officers and a Body of troops over Reesap Edward's Ford &c.

I have at the Request of Col. Clymer (who is gone to Jersey) sent to Col. Matlack sixteen counterfeit 30 Doll Bills, which no doubt he will Deliver to Council.

I have the Honour to be

Your Excy^s obd^t Hub^e Serv^r,

JN^o. BULL.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Presid^t of ye Hon^le Executive Council for ye State of Pensylvania.

DRAFT. PRESIDENT WHARTON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

In Council of Safety, Lancaster 26 Oct^r, 1777.

Sir,

The Council of Safety have paid some attention to a plan of lowering the Prices of provisions. Among the various difficulties which attend this Business we hear great complaints of the prices of Grain being much raised by the enormous Rate at which Whiskey is sold in your camp. The Distillers stick at no prices for Grain whilst these prices for Whiskey are paid.

We therefore propose to your Excellency's consideration the step of forbidding in General orders more than 10s. a Gallon to be paid for this article in Camp. Should this discourage the sutlers we apprehend the Mischief would not be great, as the Waggons they employ & the Intemperance they may occasion are perhaps a full balance to all the good they produce.

Unless something of this nature be attempted we fear your Commissaries will find it difficult, backed with whatever authority they may be, to procure grain at a reasonable Rate.

Whatever Regulations on this Head you may think fit to adopt you will be pleasd to communicate.

We congratulate you on the many successes which of late have attended your arms & which more than all other Means will contribute to lower the price of Goods & raise the value of our Currency.

I have the Honour to be &c.,

Directed,

To Genl Washington.

President Wharton to Mr. Buchanan, Commissary General, 1777.

In Council of Safety, Lancaster, October 26th, 1777.

Sir,

The Council have paid the most serious attention to the subject of your letter, and are of opinion that for the present it will be best to pursue the following mode.

It will be proper for you to make and deliver to your deputies reasonable rates for such goods as may be wanted for the army, these rates to be varied according as place and circumstances equitable require. When this is done Council will appoint commissioners in each county, who upon the application of the commissaries and being apprized of the necessity of so doing and the places where the articles wanted may be had, shall ascertain the persons who can best spare the necessaries, and assist in taking the same and deliver them to the commissary or his deputy.

For this end it will be necesary that we should be furnished with a copy of your rates. At the same time it is proper to observe that the authority given to the Commissioners should be used as seldom as may be, and with all possible prudence and equality. It should also be exerted with such mode as to reach the purpose in view, fully and at once. Wheat in the hands of the farmer would be a preferable object to flour in the hands of the miller, whose stock will need to be renewed continually. Forestallers and engrossers, who offend after our late proclamation, will be noticed with all the severity which the law prescribes, and that in a summary way. As to a general regulation of prices we fear it is impracticable; but the necessity of supplying the army will be admitted by all; and we hope to find that a prudent and steady recurrence to this mode of supply will in the end produce the most happy effects, in respect to prices in general by fixing some idea of value to a great variety of articles, this event should it answer to our hopes, will be attended with more solid advantage and less liable to evasion, at the same time that the appearance of controlling and opposing the interest of a very numerous (almost the whole) body of the people will be avoided.

You will find inclosed a list of some articles, with the opinion of Council as to their value. You will however be able from time to time to judge best of this matter, and perhaps will be under the necessity of varying occasionally.

Wheat, 8*s.* 6*d.* ℔ bush.
Rye, 8*s.* 6*d.* do.
Indian Corn, 6*s*, 6*d*, do.
Beef, (sinking the fifth quarter) 10 dollars ℔ hun.
Pork 8 dollars ℔ hun.

I am &c., THOMAS WHARTON, Junr, Prest.

Directed, To William Buchanan, Esqr, Commissary Genl.*

* Referred to in Colon. Records, Vol. XI, p. 334.

Michael Clark to President Wharton, 1777.

Lancaster, 27th Octr, 1777.

Please your Excellency,

In pursuance to orders given to me by Col Patton, purchaser for the Continental Stores to get such men as can make such casks as are fitting to put up Beef & Pork for the use of the Army. I have got as many men as will be able to make a number sufficient for the present demand, but they are obliged to go out with the Militia & if I can't detain them they Army will suffer very much & can't have the Beef & Pork ready when called for, if those men are not Detained for that purpose, I should be much Obliged to your Excellency to look into this matter.

& am, Your Excellency's
most Obliged
Humt Servt,
MICHAEL CLARK.

Directed,
To Excellencey Governour Wharton, Prest.

Col. Andrew Boyd to President Wharton, 1777.

Sadsbury, 27th Octr, 1777.

Hon^d Sir,

Least that you have not heard our proceedings since your orders to Col. Robt Smith, by me, I would beg leave to inform you, that agreeable to your orders, we stationed the fifth Class of Chester County Militia where it apeard most for ye safety of this County, but want of arms prevented us extending the lines as extensive as neccesary yet have reason to think, that it deterd the enemy of making inroads among us, a party had come several miles into the country, with an intention of takeing some indevedials in the rounds of this Batalion, but being told by their friends that we were under arms, they thought proper to return, we took some Tories, and their property that was likely to be put out of the way, & collected some fines from dissatisfyed persons, after the enemy had left Wilmington, we proposed to aply to you Sir for orders how to dispose of the men then under our direction, before this was done we received a letter from Genl Potter, desireing that they shood be sent to him, which request was imediately complyd with.

They are several persons who stand charged with substitute

money & nonatendance, who refuse to pay on account of their haveing put a man in the standing Army, agreeable to a recomendation of Congress, some hath realy received the twenty Dollers bounty, and receives a certain sum monthly out of ye mens pay for a limited time, among these are Arthur and Joseph Park, I mention these in perticular as they told me that ye wo'd wait on the Hon^e Counsil to see if that they might not be excused paying their fines, as I had not recievd any particular orders relating to that matter, I referd them to counsil, though it apears clear to me, but your orders will give it weight, I am about raising a few men to collect fines among dissatisfyed people in my district, where I can get a man to act as Constable, I was proposing to have ye officer of gaurd apointed & named in warrand, but don't know how or in what manner they are to be payd. I must find them rations, provision is so dear, I shall be glad of your orders how I am to act in these two matters, and if I am ingaged in lifting ye fines before I have your directions, hope it may meet with your approbation, as they will not be lifted by any person in their neighbourhood, I wo'd have waited on you in person but want of time, as am almost dayly from home. If that a Letter was sent me to the Compass, on ye Phila., road, eighteen miles from Lancaster, I wo'd readely get it, as I live near that Tavern.

I am Hon^d Sir,

your most ob^t

Hum^e Servt,

ANDREW BOYD, Sub Lt. Col.

Directed,

To The Hon. Thomas Wharton, Esqr, Lancaster.

Col. Walter Stewart to President Wharton, 1777.

Camp at Whippin, Oct. 27th 1777.

Dear Sir,

I take the liberty of Inclosing your Excellency a return of my Regement at the time I Joined the Army, as likewise one of this date, your Excellency will perceive their is but a difference of three men, as I have been lucky enough to have received a good many recruits, which is the cause of my being able to keep it so well up. Amongst the sick are twenty two wounded, these I expect will in a short time be again able to join me, as I am Inform'd their wounds are in general but slight.

I have been able as yet to engage but two hundred and seventy men for the War but expect to have a much larger nmuber by the 1st January, Indeed should we get into Winter Quarters, shortly,

I doubt not but I may engage the greater part, shall use every endeavour in my power to effect it as I must say they are as fine a set of men as in the army.

A Board of General officers sat at the time we laid at the Cross Roads, to determine the rank of the Field Officers from the state of Pensylvania, at which time they agreed we should be Esteem'd a Regiment belonging to said State, and not one of the Sixteen; I should be thankful to your Excellency if you would Inform me on this Head, as our situation at present is rather uncertain, & our rank in the Army not yet ascertain'd.

Captain Pugh who join'd me from the Powder Mill, and increas'd my regiment to Eleven Companies, got tired of the service & requested liberty to resign his Commission, which his Excellency was pleas'd to accept, as his Company was small, I thought it best to divide the men into the other Companys, and let the officers fall into the different Comp^s where vacancys had happen'd; this has reduc'd us to Ten Companys which answers much better.

Am sorry to Inform your Excellency, I was necessiated to have a few of the Officers broke for misconduct, the vacancy's however should not wish to have fill'd untill Winter; when Probably I shall be able to get some young Gentlemen of family, and reputation to Join me, as I would much rather go into the field half officer'd, than take People who were not well known, and whoes principles could not be depended on.

My loss of Kill'd and Missing in the two actions of Brandywine, and Germantown, does not exceed sixteen, besides the wounded; am Inclined to think most of the missing were either killed or badly wounded.

I shall take care to forward your Excellency from time to time, returns of my Regiment.

And am with Great Respect,

Y^r Excellency's,

Most Obedient

Humble Servt,

WALTER STEWART.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton Junr, President of ye Supreme Executive Council, of ye State of Pensylvania, at Lancaster.

A WEEKLY RETURN OF THE 13th PENNSYLVANIA REGIMENT, COMMANDED BY COL. WALTER STEWART, JULY THE 6th, 1777.

	Field.			Comm'd.			Staff.						Non Commissioned.						Rank and File.									Alterations since last.		
	Colonel.	Lieut. Colonel.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Chaplain.	Adjutant.	Pay Master.	Surgeon.	Mate.	Quarter Master.	Quarter Master Serjeant.	Serjeant Major.	Serjeants.	Fife Major.	Fifers.	Drummers.	Fit for Duty.	Sick Present.	Sick Absent.	On Command.	On Furlough.	Artificers.	C. C. Men.	Confined.	Total Strength.	Dead.	Discharged.	Deserted.
	1	1	2	9	15	9		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	40	1	10	10	382	44	50	49	4		11		540			
Sick in Camp,																														
" Philadel'a.					2																									
Recruiting,				1	2																									
On Command,				1		2																								
To Compleat,					8																									
	1	1	2	11	22	11		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	40	1	10	10	382	44	50	49	4		11		540			

WALTER STEWART,
COLONEL.

RETURN OF THE 13TH PENNSYLVANIA REGIMENT, COMMANDED BY COLONEL WALTER STEWART.

October 27th, 1777.	Officers Present.														Rank and File.					Alterations since last Return.						
	Commissioned.						Staff.						Non-Com.											JOINED.		
Companies.	Colonel.	Lieutenant Colonel.	Major.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Chaplain.	Adjutant.	Pay-Master.	Quarter-Master.	Surgeon.	Mate.	Sergeants.	Drummers and Fifers.	Present fit for Duty.	Sick Present.	Sick Absent.	On Command.	On Furlough.	Total.	Dead.	Discharged.	Deserted.	Sent to the Corps of Invalids.	Serjeants.	Drums and Fifers.	Rank and File.
At Bethleham.	1	1	1	7	12	5		1	1	1	1		29	18	347												
At the Salt Works,					2	1							3					38									
Sick Present,													2					31									
do Absent,			1			3							5			48											
On Furlough,				2		1							4														
Deserted,													1				70		3				4				
Total,	1	1	2	9	14	10		1	1	1	1	1	44	18	347	48	70	69	3	537			4				

WALTER STEWART, COLONEL.

Robert Levers to President Wharton, 1777.

Easton, October 27th, 1777.

Sir,

As soon as I returned from Lancaster to Allenstown, I dispatched a Messenger to Mr. Creider Waggon Master, for Fifteen Waggons. It was a Week before any arrived, Nine then came, which I forwarded to Mr. Nesbit, having wrote to that Gentleman the moment I heard Mr. Creider was collecting Waggons, desiring if the Goods were removed he would inform me thereof by Express—Which Express arrived after the Waggons were on their way to Trenton. But no Inconvenience arose, as Seven of the Waggons came here loaded with Stores, and the Two Others with Twenty Barrels Indigo directed to my Care by Mr. Nesbett, which I have secured in my own House, & wait your Excellency's directions concerning them.

Mr. Creider begged me to write to your Excellency, that he might be supplied with some Cash to discharge arrears due to Waggoners, and at the same time desired his pay as Waggon Master might be fixed, as yet he not knowing what pay he is to receive.

I am Sir,
Your Excellency's
most obediant
humble Servant,
ROBERT LEVERS.

Directed.

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton Junr, Esquire.

Lt. S. Hunter to President Wharton, 1777.

Fort Augusta, 27th October, 1777.

Sir,

Yours of the 27th September I received, with Seven Hundred and fifty Pounds Cash for the use of the Militia of Northumberland County that is on the Frontiers doing Duty, I likewise received 500lb of Powder & 1200lb of Lead, all delivered me by Lieut. Thomas Grant but no Riffle Guns, which is one Material article much wanted in this County, for in case the Indians commences Hostilitys we are badly off for Arms. I Recd Orders from your Excellency to disarm all persons in this County that Refuses to take the Oath of Allegiance, Suppose at that time I could not with any propriety take the arms from severals on the Frontiers, that was willing to stand

in their own defence against the Savages, yet never said they would not take the Oath, but wanted time to Consider of it untill the Election but as that time is pass'd and a number not willing to take s^d oath your Orders will Immediately be put in Execution, there is nothing has hapened concerning the Indians or the Frontiers of this County since the militia went there.

Col^l John Kelly who Commands there is out at this present time with a party of fifty men & an Indian called Joab Chillaway to Reconiter and make Discoverys of any Enimy indians if within fifty miles of the Great Island, and if his Report is favourable, it will be a means of Encouraging the poor Setlers to go back to their respective Habitations, as there has been since the first alarm upwards of five Hundred of men Women & Children, Assembled at three different places on the west Branch of Susquahana, Viz. at the mouth of Bald Eagle, Antis's mill & Leacoming, there is some friend Indians with their familys come in to our people whome I allow provisions while they stay.

As the third Class of this County will soon be Call'd I would be desireous to know whether Council will order them up the River to Releive the Militia now there, or down to Joine the main Army.

I am Sir your most Obed^t

Humb^e Servt,

SAML. HUNTER, Lieut.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, President of the Executive Council, Lancaster.

Genl. Potter to Pres. Wharton, 1777.

(Monday, 27 Oct^r, 1777.)

Sir,

I have Been Informed that you wanted too Know How we were Surcumstanced along the Dalewer Shore. When I came to this place, the Cuntrey People carreyed in to the city all Kinds of Marketing. But in a few days I put a Stop to that Tread, and at this time there is no purson suffered to go into the City with out a pass; all pursons coming out of Town are seesed and brought to me for examanation, if the are not Luckey enuf to Steale past, which can Scarcly be affected, as I Keep partys out by night and day; on Thorsday last I was at the uper, Middle, and Gray's ferreys with a few horsemen, and went In to Tinecun Island, and from thence In to Carpenter's Island, and Vewed the Enemy's works; they have thrown up Abess work in Giher's Orchard, and since I left that I

understand the have maid a Small Brestwork at Boon's Dam, with one peece of canon. On friday, I went with Generals Reed and Cidwaleter to Darbey and Chester; there is a number of the enemy Ships leying at and below Chester, about 60. I have moved all the Beef Cattle and the flower that was in this part of this County. The enemy Has a bridge over at the Meddle ferrey, and it is Believed that they are about to make two more—one at the uper ferrey and one below Gray's, about one mile. I am informed that the party that was last sent over to the Jarsey to take Red bank is Returned to the City; if this is so I can't say what they mean, if it is not a Retreat. From the Best Accounts I can Receve, provisions is very scarce and Deer in the City; they are Killing there Milk Cows and Seling the Beef at 2 6 ℔ lb. The Torreys I am told Loock as Cain did of old, and the Whigs Begin to Rejoice.

I am Sorry to Inform you that my Brigade a few days ago was about 400 men—at present it is about 700. I Blush for the State of Pennsylvania when it will appear that the largest Number of Militia that they had in the field on this Important Occasion was 2850 Previts, and at the Battle at Germantown about 1500, and at this present not more than 1500; and what Gives me the Blush more Immedatly, I did not think it Had Been in the power of man to find such men for Officers as some we have. You can't consave what sort of Beings they are.

Please to pardon my long Scrall.

I am Your Excelancey's

most obedant Humble Servant,

JAS. POTTER.

P. S.—the Ships that were Blowen up was the Augustey of 64 Guns and a friget of 32 Guns; this hapned on Wedensday last, the evening before the defeat at Red bank was, and since these two hapey events the enemy has been Very still.

J. P.

Directed,

To His Excelancey Thomas Wharton, Esqr, In Lancaster.

Genl. Potter to Pres. Wharton, 1777.

Sir,

Before this com to hand you Have no hurd of the Repulse the enemy met with at Red bank, and of there two ships being Blowed up; it is beleved that in one of the Ships the lost about 250 men. I understand that the Inhabitance about Grubs' Taverant are suplying the enemy with wood and other nesscesrys. I will send off a party to prevent that Traid; the enemy has maid a Bridge over

Ougdon's ferrey, and Built a Brest work on the point of the Hill at the Grave yard, and has four field peces on it. I am of opinion that if they can't Get up there ships the will be under the necessity of Retreating from Philadelphia. It is Reported that the Have Sent over to attact Redbank the British Granadeers and four Regiments of British and Heasen Troops. Should they be disapointed In this Attact I think they will Give it up. My people have taken 2 Light Horsemen and there Horses, and eight feet Soldiers, prisners, and Killed a few at Sundery times.

I am your Excelancey's
obedant Humble Servt,
JAS. POTTER.

Directed,
To His Exealancey Thomas Wharton in Lancaster.
℔ favour of Col. Clark.

DRAFT OF LETTER FROM COUNCIL TO GENL. MIFFLIN, 1777.

In Council of Safety,
Lancaster, 28th Octr, 1777.

Sir,

Inclosed is a Copy of our Letter to Col. Buchanan,* the Commissary Genl. We have communicated it to You because that Since the Date of it we have recd a Complaint from an Assistant Quartermaster, that he cannot possibly procure Forage unless at the most enormous Prices. Three Dollars a Bushel, he says, have been asked of him for Rye.

The same plan. we apprehend, must be pursued in your Department as in that of the Commissary; the same prices should be given & the same Mode of enforcing Supplies, when they cannot be procured at reasonable Rates, and the two Departments should act in Concert.

You will find also inclosed† a Copy of our Letter to Genl. Washington on the Subject of Whisky, & We have annexed for your consideration a Rate of Sundry Articles which will be necessary in the Quarter-master's Department.

Our advice to the Commissary Genl. will equally apply to the Quartermaster Genl., & our Letter to him may be considered in the same Light as if it had been originally directed to you, altering only the little Matters which are peculiar to each Department, and you may be assured of every assistance which Council can afford.

I am, Sir,
Your most h'ble Servt.

Genl. Miffiin.

* See page 711.

† The inclosures referred to have not been found on file.

[illegible] Chevaux de Frize, which we discover'd early in the [illegible] & Merlin ran aground [illegible] we

* See pages 680, 696.

morning of the 23d. I immediately hoisted the signal to engage them, & soon after the engagement became general. We had engaged our 12 Galleys & the two floating Batterys & all behaved extreamly well, the rest of our Fleet could not be brought timely to act with us. We had against us, the Augusta of 64 who had her broadside below & aloft constantly playing on us, with the Roebuck, & two Frigates & their Galley, & had the Roebuck laid fast, she would have shared the same fate; but she was drove from her station before the Augusta got on fire. We are told by a deserter since, that the Augusta lost 150 or 160 men Kill'd & drowned, as a great part of her men was obliged to jump overboard. The Roebuck had 6 kill'd & 10 wounded—Dear Sir, if you have any influence on General Washington, I beg you will use it with him to send me 250 men to reinforce our Fleet, for we cannot mann half our Galleys to go to action. I have repeatedly wrote him, but have nothing but promises from time to time; & believe me Sir, without the Fleet is kept up, you will never get your City nor shall we be able to hold out much longer; but had I Men, I think I could drive all the force they could bring against us; but how can a man discharge such a trust as I have on me, half mann'd, without being disgraced, give me but this number of men & all is safe—having not to add, am Sir, with the greatest respect.

Your most obedient &

very Hble Servt

JOHN HAZELWOOD.

Directed.

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq., Lancaster.

State Navy Board to President Wharton, 1777.

Sir,

We apprehend your Excellency has a full acco't of the last Engagement, at Red Bank, and the destruction of the Augusta, and Merlin. The Commodore was on board of the wrecks, two days after the Engagement, and took out two Twenty four pounders, and the People got a great many Jackets, & Breeches, and other Plunder & proposed soon after to go down again, to get the rest of the guns, &c., but for four days past, we have had nothing but a constant storm of Rain & Winds, in which we were in continual apprehension of loosing our Galleys, and Guard boats. The Galleys are all safe, some of the Guard boats are sunk, and the people on board the Galleys &c., have been so Wet and cold that many are falling down with sickness. The Commodore does all he can, in every respect, yet we fear some of the Continental Captains, as well as some in the Forts, are writing

under hand to General Washington, infusing a Notion in his head, as the the Commodore is endeavouring to make a Difference and will not give proper assistance. The Cry from the Fort, is continually our whole dependance, is on the Fleet; we cannot defend ourselves, and indeed should the Commodore leave them it would soon be over with them. Thus they are constantly expecting the Commodore shall defend the River and at the same time defend and protect Fort Mifflin. The Commodore we are sure will do all in his power to defend every place and give all the assistance in his power to every place. Your Excellency in your Letter recommends that some of the Navy Board should be constantly together, be assured it shall be done. Capt. Blewer, W. Bradford & Paul Cox have been very constant together, unless one dispatched at a Time on Necessary business for the fleet, which must be attended to. Mr. Crispin has never been down till a few days, which has thrown the Commissarys on us, and Capt. Blewer has acted as such ever since he has been here; but hope Crispin will now lend his hand.

Our Pay Master never came near us, we are at a loss for one, if your Excellency should think proper, we would recommend Wm. C. Bradford, who is now here, for that office. Deserters from the fleet yesterday we learn that the Augusta had 150 kill'd and drown'd when she was destroyed. The Roebuck had 6 kill'd and 10 wounded; and they say that another General Attack is soon intended by Land & Water. The late bad weather has compleatly fill'd the Meadows with Water yet the Enemy hold their Forts. In Fort Mifflin our People have foolishly cut thro' the banks and the whole Island is now under Water; in short if they do not stop it again I fear the consequence, as the People must get sick if not obliged to abandon it. The Enemy have landed a number of Men at Billingsport and are erecting a Battery above that place to defend their wrecks that we may get nothing out of them.

The Nine Thousand Dollars we received by Mr. Jacob S. Howell which shall be expended with all care. The Cattle we have been obliged to purchase has carried our Cash fast as we supply the whole of ours, & the Continental Fleet with Fresh Provisions, endeavouring to keep the Salt for the Garrison, or ourselves, if we should be so situated as not to be able to get fresh. We think we shall want about £6000 by the 10th of next Month.

By order of the Board

I have the Honour to be

Your Excellencys

Most Humble Servt.

JOSEPH BLEWER, Cm.

State Navy Board, on board the Sloop Speedwell, off Red Bank, Octr 30th, 1777.

Directed.

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, junr, Esq., President of the Supreme Executive Council Lancaster.

Address of Officers in Camp to the Assembly, 1777.

To the Representatives of the Freemen of the State of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met.

Gentlemen,

We beg leave to address you on an occasion, which not only immediately concerns you as Citizens & as Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania, but also the Army which you have sent into the field from that State—indeed it relates to the future safety of the States at large.

As it is obvious to the World, that nothing can now determine the Fate of America but Arms, the Idea of Reconciliation having long since been reprobated—as a prudent and political People, we shou'd therefore use every mean in our power, to expedite the recruiting service in our State, that we may not be reduced a second time to the shameful necessity of bringing our Regiments into the field but half made up.

It may not be amiss to enquire into the real Cause of our Regiments not being fill'd last Year—the Cause is too obvious. Such enormous sums have been paid for Substitutes, & that too, frequently by men who ought themselves to have taken the field, that it became impossible for a Recruiting Officer to raise a single Man, So that every Idea of completing the Standing Army was entirely lost, & our sole dependance placed on a mere *passing Cloud*, the *Militia*.

The many & sorrowful Instances which we have already experienced, in regard to the weakness and Inability of Militia, ought to induce us to use our utmost exertions in recruiting Men for the standing Army. In order to effect this, we conceive, that Substitutes must be totally disallow'd of, & that *that* Money which a Man wou'd willingly give for a Substitute in the Militia, shou'd be given as a Bounty to a man to serve during the War, or as a farther encouragement for him to enlist, over & above the present Bounty.

Shou'd this Method prove ineffectual—Quer? Wou'd it not answer a valuable Purpose to cause *Draughts* to be made, and in case they should refuse to turn out, then oblige them to send a Substitute for three Years or during the War.

While we solicit for men, we must not neglect to make application to you for Cloathing—an Article highly necessary for a Soldier, but particularly so at this Season of the year. Necessary however as it is, yet we are sorry to mention, that very little attention has been paid either by Congress or the State to the Dress & Cloathing of the Army.

Those brave Men in the Division commanded by General Wayne, whose intrepid Opposition to three times their number of the Enemy at Chad's Ford, will we trust, thro future Ages, reflect the highest honor not only upon themselves, but likewise redound to the reputa-

tion of the State in which they were raised—those very men who had an active part in breaking & driving the Brittish Army with the most unheard of precipitation, on the Plains of Germantown, are now destitute of every necessary Article of Cloathing, & are in short in a perishing Situation. While we take notice of this Division, we wou'd by no means neglect the Merit of the other Regiments, & Corps from our State—their good Conduct in the field and their Wants in regard to Cloathing, equally demand your Applause and attention.

It is universally allowed by all Military Writers & others acquainted with Armies, that no pains shou'd be spar'd in inculcating Pride into the Soldiery, some go so far as to alledge, that it is a good Substitute for almost every Virtue—if this be true, which facts seem to evince, then the first Step to be taken, (in order to introduce it) is to cloath each Man in a genteel neat Uniform, by which means he will have it in his power to keep himself clean & consequently free from the Disorders incident to a Camp.

We likewise esteem it our Duty to apply for Blankets—Neither Officers or Men are, at this time supplied with any, nor has the least regard been paid to our repeated applications for them, during the whole of this Campaign.

The Season is now becoming cold, but the season for Action is by no means over, we know not what time we shall go into Winter Quarters, if you therefore expect we shall keep up any Shew of Opposition, you will without Delay use your utmost Endeavors to raise a number of Blankets, on any Terms whatever.

We beg leave to assure you that these requisitions are serious & in their Consequences of vast Importance—& we take upon us to affirm that unless the strictest attention is paid to them, & immediate Steps fallen upon, to put our Army on a more respectable footing, we shall not have it in our power to take the field next Campaign, with half the quota of Troops w^h the other States expect we shall raise.

We are Gentleman With great

Regard your Hble Servt,

Camp at White Marsh,
Octr. 30th, 1777.

Ant'y Wayne, B. G.
Jere^h Talbot, Capt of ye 7th Penn^a Reg. Com^dt.
John Patterson, Cap. 2^d P. Rg^t Commandg.
Saml. Hay, Maj^r 7th Penn^a Reg^t
Richd. Humpton, Col. 11th Pen^a Regt.
Fra. Johnston, Colonel 5th P. Rg^t
Daniel Brodhead, Col. 8th Penn^a Regt.
James Chambers, Col. 1st Regt.
Wm. Butler, Lt Col. 4th P. R.
Ad^m Hubley jr., L^t C^l 10th P. R.
P. Montgomery, 11 P. Regt.
Henry Miller, Maj^r 1st P. R.
Walter Stewart, Colonel of ye late State Regiment.

We are members of the State of Pensylvania, we have served the present Campaign, in the first Brigade, Penn'a General Waynes Division—we highly approve of the foregoing Representation and are well convinced the Facts stated require the most serious attention.

Thos. Hartley, Col. Commg. the first Brigade Penns.
Morgn. Connor, Lt Col. in Col. Hartley's Regt.

Directed,

To The Honble The Speaker of the House of Assembly of The State of Pennsylvania.

General Roberdeau to President Wharton, 1777.

This account was taken at Bethlehem from an officer sent by Gen' Burgoyne with despatches to Gen' Howe. The officer left Bethlehem on Monday morning.

A list of British by capitulation,—said to be more,.....	2,442
Foreigners, do	2,198
Sent to Canada on parole,.....	1,100
Gen' Burgoyne & Staff, among which 6 members of parliament,	12
Sick, 598, Wounded, 528,.....	1,126
Prisoners of War before surrender,.....	400
Deserters,.....	300
Lost at Bennington,.....	1,220
Killed between 17th Septr & 18th Octr,.....	600
Taken at Ticonderoga,.....	400
Killed in Gen' Harkermers's Battle,.....	300
	10,098

37 brass Cannon Royals & Mortars, Impliments & Store compleat—said to be 27.
5,000 stand of arms.
400 sett of Harness.
A number of ammunition Waggons & Harness.
6 field pieces at Bennington.
2 do., & 4 Royals at Fort Schyler.

Articles of convention between Lieut Gen' Burgoyne & Major Gen' Gates.

1st. The Troops under Lt Gen' Burgoyne are to march out of the Camp wth the honors of war and the artillery of the Intrenchments to the verge of the River where the old Fort stood, where the arms and artillery are to be left; the arms to be piled by word of command of their own officers.

2nd. A free passage to be granted to the army under Lt. Genl. Burgoyne to Great Britain, upon condition of not serving again in North America during the present contest; and the port of Boston is assigned for the entry of Transports to receive the Troops, whenever Genl. Howe shall so order.

3d. Should any Cartel take place, by which the army under Lt. Genl. Burgoyne, or any part of it, may be exchanged, the foregoing article to be void as far as such Exchange shall be made.

4th. The army under Lt. Genl. Burgoyne to march to Massachusetts Bay by the earliest, most Expeditious, and convenient Rout, and to be quartered in, near, or as convenient as possible to Boston, that the march of the Troops may not be delayed when transports arrive to receive them.

5th. The troops to be supplied on the march and during their being in quarters with Provisions, by Genl. Gates' orders, at the same rate of Rations as the Troops of his own army, &, if possible, the Officers, Horses & Cattle are to be supplied with forage at the usual rate.

6th. All Officers to retain their Carriages, Batt. Horses & other Cattle, and no baggage to be molested or searched, Lt. Genl. Burgoyne giving his honor there are no publick stores secreted therein. Major Genl. Gates will of course take the necessary measures for the due performance of this article. Should any Carriage being wanting for the transportation of Officers' Baggage, they are, if possible, to be supplied by the Country at the usual rates.

7. Upon the march, and during the time the army shall remain in Quarters in the Massachusetts Bay, the officers are not, as far as circumstances will admit, to be seperated from their men. The officers are to be quartered according to rank, and are not to be hindered from assembling their men for roll calling, & other purposes of regulating.

8th. All corps whatever of Genl. Burgoyne's army, whether composed of Sailors, Batteau men, Artificers, Drivers, Independent Companies, & followers of the Army of whatever Country, shall be included in the fullest sense & utmost extent of the above articles, & comprehended in every respect as British subjects.

9th. All Canadians & persons belonging to the Canadian Establishment, consisting of Sailors, Batteaumen, Artificers, Drivers, Independent Companies, & many other followers of the Army who come under no particular description are to be permitted to return there. They are to be conducted immediately by the shortest rout to the first British post on Lake George, & are to be supplied with provisions in the same manner as the other Troops, &. are to be bound by the same conditions of not serving during the present contest in North America.

10th. Passports to be immediately granted to their officers not exceeding the rank of Captains, who shall be appointed by Lt. Gen. Burgoyne to carry dispatches to Sr Wm Howe, Sr Guy Carlton, & to Great Britain, by the way of New York. And Major Genl. Gates engages the publick faith that these dispatches shall not be opened. The officers are to set out immediately after receiving their dispatches, and to travel by the shortest Routs, and in the most expeditious manner.

11th. During the stay of the Troops in Massachusetts Bay, the Officers are to be admitted to their parol, & are to be allowed to wear their side arms.

12th. Should the army under Lt. Genl. Burgoyne find it necessary to send for their cloathing & other Baggage to Canada, they are to be permitted to do it in the most convenient manner, & the necessary passports granted for that purpose.

13th. These articles are to be mutually signed & exchanged tomorrow morning at 9 o'Clock, and the Troops under Lt. Genl. Burgoyne are to march out of their Intrenchments at 3 o'clock in the Afternoon.

J. BURGOYNE.

Camp at Saratoga, Octr 16th, 1777.

York Town, Octr 31st, 1777.

Sir,

I acknowledge your favr, and thro' you beg to acknowledge one from my friend, Col. Bayard, which is all that I can do by this conveyance, as I am in danger of losing it; for this reason I cannot forward Copies of the other dispatches this day recd by Express, (Col. Wilkinson,) but shall endeavour to do it very soon. The List was taken before the Examination of Col. Wilkinson, which has occasioned two or three remarks from memory, but it is not to be depended on. An exact return is expected this day, and you must excuse me until a further oppr.

I am

respectfully Sir,

Yr mot ob. & very

humi Serv.

DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

Directed.

The Honorable George Bryan, Esqr, Vice President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsilvania, Lancaster.

Favoured by Dr Witherspoon.

A General Return of his Brittannick Majesty's Forces under Lieut General Burgoine, which surrendered to the Continental Army, Commanded by Major Genl Gates, at Saratoga, on the 17th Oct^r, 1777.

Corps.	Lieut. Generals.	Major Generals.	Brigadier Generals.	Colonels.	Lieut. Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Chaplains.	Adjutants.	Qr. Master.	Surgeons.	Mates.	Judge Advocates.	Sergeants.	Drummers & Fifers.	Rank & File.
British,	1	1	1		4	5	26	63	23	4	3	3	5	5	3	123	106	2139
German,		1	2		2	5	22	48	10	4	3	3	9	8	5	217	83	2022
Canadian Establishment,						2	18	22	8			1				16		830
Total,	1	2	3		6	12	76	133	41	8	6	7	14	13	5	356	189	4991

This Digest argeeable to the returns, rendered me by the Commanding Officer of Regiments & Corps. The Officers of the British Artillery are *included in this return; a general state of that Corps could not be procured at the time I left the Army, although I am well assured that the number of non commissioned Officers & Privates belonging thereto exceeds 150.

(Signed,)

JAMES WILKINSON,

*(Not) undoubtedly omitted. Adjutant N. Army.

RETURN OF ORDNANCE STORES TAKEN FROM THE ENEMY, OCT. 7, AND 17, 1777.

CANNON,		NUMBERS,	
Brass,	12 lbrs.	2	Taken October 7th, near Still Water.
do.	6 "	6	
do.	24 "	2	
do.	12 "	2	
do.	6 "	12	
do.	8 "	4	Taken October 17th, at Saratoga.
Royal Howitzers,		5	
Eight Inch "		2	
Total of Ordnance,		35	

N. B. Implements & Stores compleat for the pieces, particulars not ascertained for want of time.

Five thousand Stands of Arms taken, and a great quantity of Musket Cartridges and a number of Ammunition Waggons, Travelling Forges, &c.

(Signed.)
J. WILKINSON,
A. General N. Army.

York Town, 31 Oct^r, 1777.

Agreeable to the return rendered me by the Commanding Officer of Artillery.

True Copies.
DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

Directed,
His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, jun^r, Esqr, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Common-Wealth of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Robert Galbraith to President Wharton, 1777.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Junior, Esqr., President, &c.
Sir,

I have been at Bedford and opened the Courts without any opposition. The Sheriff held the Election, and though but a small one, yet I hope it will answer a good purpose. Mr. Smith still refuses to deliver up the Records, as appears by the affidavits sent you by Mr. John Morris, Clerk of the Assembly. I've sent by Mr. Morris the Nomination of Bedford Justices of Persons for Clerk of the Peace, which I expect the Council will take notice of, and send up the Commission per first opportunity. I should be glad of some instructions relative to the Tavernkeepers; some have applied at the Court, and recommended, but I have no Licence nor orders to proceed in the matter. Mr. Woods has taken the Oath of Allegiance, and wonders why himself and the other two Gentlemen recommended with him, are not Commissioned; he says he is now determined to support the Constitution, and most undoubtedly he can do a great deal of good or ill in this County at the present Time. If the Council thought proper to send for Mr. Smith, and dispose of him in some other way than confineing him in Bedford, it might answer a better purpose, for I am apprehensive he might be rescued here, and I am of opinion if he was brought before the Council he would agree to deliver them up; but this I leave to the wisdom and prudence of the Council.

The generality of the People in Bedford County are well disposed to the Constitution, and a little Time, I am persuaded, will put matters upon a good footing. I attended at Carlisle Court, and

matters there went on midling well. Mr. Morris, who attended, also can inform you. I write this in York Town, where I have attended on behalf of the State; the Courts were opened here, but in manner, and under what circumstances, Mr. McLean, who intends waiting of you in a few Days, will inform. I intend returning to Bedford in a few Days, as soon as I can get Seals of Office engraved here.

With Compliments to Mr. Bryan and the other Gentlemen of the Council.

I am with respect,
your Excellencys most obedt,
humble servt,
ROBERT GALBRAITH.

York Town, October 31st, 1777.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Junr, Esqr, President, &c., &c., Lancaster.

JOHN TYLER, ARMORER, TO PRES'T WHARTON, 1777.

To his Excellency Thomas Wharton, junr Esq., President of the Executive Council for the state of Pennsylva in Council;

May it Please your Excellency—

The Indispensible Duty I owe to your Excellency and the council, Induces me to inform you of the state of my Department at this place; at my first coming here all was hurry and Confusion no place could be procured for carrying on the Repair of the musquits, &c., belonging to this state or even for the People to put their Heads in; but thro' the kind Interference of the worthy Col. Wetzell and other Lieutenents of this County, A place was soon purchased and I have sixteen hands Employ'd and in a few days expect to have three hundred stand of arms repaired and Ready to deliver to such place as your Excellency shall order; (besides a Number already delivered by Col. Wetzells order) Nothing shall be wanting in me to promote with the assistance of the Lieutenants, the utmost decorum and dispatch, some uneasiness it is true prevails among the workmen that the Artificers and Labatary men in the Continential Service draw Liquor, and it is not in their power to draw any, altho' they think they are entitled to it as the allowance from the state, but the difficulty is there is no state Commissary here, and it is the opinion of Col. Hagner and Col. Wetzell that if their was a state Commissary here the people would be better supplied and if they Could then draw their Liquor, every

thing would go on smooth and it would tend to further the Business of the state. It is therefore requested that your Excellency & the Council would Consider the matter, Col. Hagner & Col. Wetzell are willing to undertake the purchase & Issues for the pressent if they have the Councils Authority for that purpose.

I am

your Excellency's

most Hu'ble Servt

JNO. TYLER, Armr

Northampton, Oct'r 31, 1777-

P. S. As we have no very large Quantity of arms here I hope we may receive such a supply from time to time as will keep the people in Employ.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thos Wharton, junr Esq., President of the Executive Council of the state of Pennsylvania.

☞ Favour of
Mr. Wm. Thorne.

PRES'T WHARTON TO COL'S CHENEY & GRUNOW, 1777.

Lancr, 31st Octr, 1777

Gentlemen,

When Col. Smith, Lieut of Chester, was here, by his information, & that of others, it appeared to Council, that the immediate embodyment of light horse Militia was a measure very practicable, & very important to the protection of the County, & annoyance of the enemy. It was recommended to Col. Smith to exert the powers given to him in the Militia Law, & form Corps of Light Horse accordingly; and he was promised support in such an exertion.

What Col. Smith may have effected in his neighbourhood, Council have not heard; Perhaps the drawing out of the Classes of foot Militia last ordered, may have greatly engaged his attention. At least Col. Davis assures us, that no step towards the business proposed has been taken in the South Eastern parts of the County; in wch however, he says many Volunteers offer their service. Council desirous that no further loss of time may happen, in this important affair, do desire & order you to take all prudent & effectual measures to form 3 or 4 Troops of Light Horse out of your Militia; taking herein the advice & direction of Gen, Potter, on whom they greatly rely. These, you are to put under his direction, subordinate however to the Comr in chief, & Gen. Armstrong.

Your public spirit will doubtless engage your best attention to the

business recommended, in which you may depend on Council for their full support.

I am

Directed.

To Col. Cheney & Col. Grunow, Chester County.

MEMORIAL OF GUN STOCKERS IN THE STATE FACTORY, 1777.

October, y° 30th 1777.

To the Honourable Council of Safety of the Common Wealth of Pensylvania.

The Petition of the Subscribers Gun Stockers of this State Factory Humbly Sheweth,

That we have been a Considerable time imployed in the Factory at French Creek and found the price we then receiv'd was not Sufficient for our support by reason of goods and provisions being so very high and we receiv'd but two and six pence ℔ Stock more than before the war began, Mr. Dehaven our manager and Mr. Benjamin Ritenhouse our Superintendant acknoledged they thought our wages two low and were willing to sign a petition to have our price rais'd from ten to fifteen Shillings ℔ Stock, our petition was taken to Philadelphia at the time of the battle at Brandywine when nothing could be done for us and was left there, we then were obliged to leave our work and asist in removing the stores and all belonging to our work and Mr. Dehaven promised we should receive a Dollar ℔ day till we could get to work again, we have now removed to Humbles Town where we can scarce get the Necessarys of life at any price (Whilst those imploy'd in the Continental Factory's Constantly receive their Rations) since we came here we have been imploy'd in preparing places to work in, which are not quite ready nor have we materials to work on as yet, and now are inform'd by Mr. Dehaven that he will not pay us from the time we left work at French Creek, except a few days, nor allow us any higher wages for what we shall do, and as five of us have families here and the rest of us have to pay high for our board. We Humbly intreat you to Consider and rectify us, as we earnestly desire to promote the public good by continuing at our business and doing it faithfully.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

Joseph Delavau,	Archibald Curry,
William Atkinson,	Frederick Wharton,
Conrad Switsor,	John Weaver,
Conrad Bartling,	Joseph Eastburn,
William Faries,	Isaac Johns.*

* See Colon. Rec. Vol., p. XI. 365.

Henry Christ and others, to President Wharton, 1777.

Reading, November 1st, 1777.

Sir,

Upon your Honours Request from Philadelphia, June 17th, 1777. To the Justice of the County of Berks, to Confer together to obtain a Sufficient Number of Waggons with proper Drivers, and to appoint a Waggon Master for each Brigade to be in Readiness upon the first Call, and recommended to us that a Waggon Master may be appointed in the County with proper assistants to furnish us with a list of the Waggons in each District according to the said request, the Justices of Berks County Immediately have met and appointed a Waggon Master General, with proper assistants, and they have furnished us with a list of the number of waggons in each Township of Berks County and upon your Honours Request, In Council Philadelphia, July, 31st 1777, to us requiring the Justices of Berks County Immediately to send 350 waggons to Philadelphia, (when the enemys fleet was seen near the Light House) to remove Stores, Provisions &c. We have Immediately sent orders to the Waggon Master General and to each Waggon Master in the Townships to make up the said number of waggons Immediately to go to Phil^a for said purpose, and according to our orders a great number of waggons was sent to Phil^a upon that account, and the Waggon Master general and the other Waggon Masters to each Brigade went the same time and when they came to Phil^a the Enemy's fleet left our Capes and the waggons got nothing to load was obliged to return emty (except 20 waggons was taken into the service for the use of the Army.) Their wages will amount to a large Sum of Money and they are a plagueing us and the Waggon Master Continually for their pay. We would therefore Desire your Honor would Order a sum of money to be sent to us or the Waggon Master in this Town to pay off said people. We think it will at least take 2500 or very nigh 3000 pounds, and if there is more sent than is wanted we shall lay the account before your Honour or any person your Honour will appoint, and return the overplus.

Sir,

We are with Respect

your most obedient

Humble Servant,

HENRY CHRIST,
JACOB SHOEMAKER,
JOHN LUDWIG.

Directed

To The Honble. Thomas Wharton Jr., President.

DANIEL ROBERDEAU TO SUPREME EXEC. COUNCIL, 1777.

York Town, Nov. 1st, 1777.

Dr Sir,

Yesterday the confirmation of the northern affair arrived, the Convention at Saratoga was immediately forwarded to Council, and this day Gen' Gates' two letters, one to Congress the other to Gen' Vaughan,* with an exact return of prisoners and stores surrendered, All these dispatches have been sent in the most slovenly manner, but it is impossible for me in the midst of publick Business, without assistance, to be more correct, therefore, I hope I have the excuse of Council. Mr. Clinghem this day took his seat, pray, where are the other Dellegates? Henry Laurens, Vice President of Se Carolina, a worthy, sensible, indefatigable Gentleman, was this day chosen by a unanimous vote, except his own, President of Congress.

I am obliged to you for the paper & the several printed publications. Pray keep me advised.

I am,

Dr Sir

Yr most obt humr Servt,

DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

Directed,

To Timothy Matlack, Esqr, Secretary to the Honble The Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Lancaster.

Favoured by Gen' Kalb.

HENRY LAURENS TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

York Town, Pennsylvania, 1st Novem., 1777.

Sir,

The Arms of the United States of America having been blessed in the present Campaign with remarkable success, Congress have Resolved to recommend that one day, Thursday the 18th Decemr† next, be set apart to be observed by all the Inhabitants throughout these States for a General Thanksgiving to Almighty God. And I have it in command to transmit to you the inclosed Extract from the Minutes of Congress for that purpose. Your Honour will be pleased to take the necessary measures for carrying the Resolve into effect in the State in which you preside.

* See page 687–8, & 726.

† See proclamation in Col. Rec. Vol. XI, p. 369.

You will likewise find inclosed a certified copy of a minute shewing the authority under which I have the honour of addressing you.

I am with great Esteem & Regard,

Sir,

Most obedt humble Servant,

HENRY LAURENS,
Presidt in Cong.

Directed,

To the Honble Thomas Wharton, Esqr, Pennsylvania.

In Congress, November 1, 1777.

Congress proceeded to the choice of a President and the ballots being taken Mr. Henry Laurens was elected.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Resolutions of Congress, 1777.

In Congress, Nov. 1, 1777.

Forasmuch as it is the indispensable duty of all men to adore the superintending providence of Almighty God, to acknowledge with gratitude their obligation to him for benefits received & to implore such further blessings as they stand in need of. And it having pleased him in his abundant mercy not only to continue to us, the innumerable bounties of his common providence, but also to smile upon us in the prosecution of a just and necessary war for the defence & establishment of our unalienable rights & liberties. Particularly in that he hath been pleased in so great a measure to prosper the means used for the support of our troops & to crown our arms with most signal success.

It is therefore recommended to the legislative or executive powers of these United States to set apart Thursday, the 18th day of December next for solemn thanksgiving & praise. That at one time and with one voice the good people may express the grateful feelings of their hearts, & consecrate themselves to the service of their divine benefactor & that together with their sincere acknowledgments & offerings they may join the penitent confession of their manifold sins, whereby they had forfeited every favor; & their humble and

earnest supplication that it may please God, through the merits of Jesus Christ, mercifully to forgive & blot them out of remembrance. That it may please him graciously to afford his blessing on the governments of these States respectively, & prosper the public councils of the whole. To inspire our commanders both by land & sea, & all under them with that wisdom & fortitude which may render them fit instruments, under the providence of Almighty God, to secure for these United States the greatest of all human blessings, "*independence & peace.*" That it may please him to prosper the trade & manufactures of the people, & the labor of the husbandman, that our land may yet yield its increase. To take schools & seminaries of education so necessary for cultivating the principles of true liberty, virtue & piety under his nurturing hand & to prosper the means of religion for the promotion & enlargement of that kingdom which consisteth in *righteousness, peace & joy in the holy ghost.*

And it is farther recommended that servile labor & such recreation as though at other times innocent, may be unbecoming the purpose of this appointment may be omittted on so solemn an occasion.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Lt. Sam'l Hunter to President Wharton, 1777.

Fort Augusta, 1st November, 1777.

Sir,

Yours of the 23* October, I received Yesterday by express, ordering that the third and fourth Classes of the Militia of this County be sent out to joine General Washington, and to be supplyed with arms and Blankets, which is not to be got in this County at present, the first Class and part of the second is stationed on the Frontiers of this County and has all the good arms that could be Collected in those parts, so that when those classes that is now called march, they must go without arms, I had promised the poor back Inhabitants to relieve the first class whose time is expired the sixteenth of this month, the People there is in a bad way as they have got in no Crops this fall, which is very hard on them being generaly Poor, & new setlers, as for the present state of this County, I refer you to Captain John Hambright who is chose one of the Council, there will be no time lost in collecting, and bringing the men to the place of Rendesvouse, to march as soon as Possable, the People of this County is beginning to murmur for want of salt as they cannot get any to buy, and I be-

* See page 694.

leive this is the worst off, of any County in the state for that very article,

I am

Sir,

your most obedt

Humbl Servt

SAM'L HUNTER, Lieut.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton, President of the Executive Council Lancaster.

GEN. POTTER TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Sir,

In Augest last I Recommended the Bearer Mr. Jurdan to your Excelancey for to be appointed a lieut., in one of the Cumpaneys in the Continental service, he was a Lieut., under me last winter in the Jarsey, and acted liek the Gentleman and the soldier, and I am persuaded he wold make a good officer, he has been a vollenteer ever since I left the Jarsey.

I am your

Excellenceys

Obedient Humble servt

JAS. POTTER.

Novr 2d, 1777.

Directed,

To His Excelancey Thomas Wharton, Esq.

SUP. EXEC. COUNCIL TO CONGRESS, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, November 3, 1777.

Sir,

The hon'ble John Hancock, Esq., President of Congress his letter of the 17th* of October enclosing a resolve of Congress of the 16th,† Extract of a Letter from his Excellency General Washington dated the 13th‡ and a list of the cloathing wanted in the Continental army, has been laid before the Council. We have had a conference on this subject with the Clothier General respecting the articles wanted for

* See page 681. † p. 678. ‡ p. 669.

the army, and assured him of every assistance we can give him. But there is great reason to fear that the encreasing of the number of purchasers, by over bidding each other, will rather tend to raise the prices of goods still higher, than to procure greater supplies—Commissioners in several Counties are appointed by this Council for the procuring of Blankets, Shoes, & Stockings, from such of the disaffected as can possibly spare them, and the Council will give unremitting attention to this important object; altho' they find this State very bare of those articles and likely to be distressed from the want of them.

By the quantity of cloathing delivered to the army, by the clothier General, within a few months, and the wants which are now evident there is too much reason to fear that the attention of the officers hath not prevented the soldiers from selling their cloathing; perhaps for the purpose of purchasing whisky, which at the enormous price it is now sold by the Sutlers at Camp, is alone sufficient in a few weeks to strip a Soldier to the skin.

Directed,

To the President of Congress,

Col. Clement Biddle to President Wharton, 1777.

Camp, Whitemarsh, Nov 3, 1777.

Sir,

I had the honour to receive your letter (of 28th ulto* in Council) & think it necessary to inform you of the mode of collecting Forage which I am frequently obliged to pursue, & of the prices I have paid as this Branch will be a considerable part of your intended regulation, to promote the service of the army.

The constant removal & uncertain stay of our army in one place has prevented their horses being supplied from fixed magazines which has obliged me by the approbation of his Excellency the Com^r in Chief to send the Forage masters with waggons to the Farm Houses round our Encampment, to take from each Farm a proportion of their Forage giving them receipts for the same and leaving a reasonable share for their Families, & stock. For this they have been always paid at different rates according to our situation for some time past since crossing to this side Schuylkil, I have paid the following rates—for good hay £7 10—℔ Tonn, & in proportion for that of an inferior Quality—wheat (of which we consume a great Quantity for Forage) 8*s.* 6*d.* ℔ bushel, Oats as it has been scarse 7*s.* 6*d.* ℔ bushel, Rye 7*s.* 6*d.*, for hay for a horse 24 hours 1*s.* 6*d.*, Spelts we have none in this Quarter, Buckwheat 4*s.* 6*d.*, ℔ bushel.

* See page 720.

I have always drawn as much as possible from the magazines at a distance but many of them are drained, & the Inhabitants either refuse to sell at reasonable rates, or to thresh out their grain, therefore I think some method will be necessary to enable the persons properly authorized to supply the magazines as well as the immediate Consumption of the army.

I shall esteem it a particular favour to be furnished with any Regulations you may make on this head, & have the honour to be,

Your Excellencys

most obedient &

very hum. Servt

CLEMENT BIDDLE, Comr Forage.

Directed.

On public Service.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of the state of Pennsylvania Lancaster.

Col. Wm. Bradford to President Wharton, 1777.

Sir,

My last to your Excellency was on my arrival at Burlington, giving an account of the Galleys getting up and the Burning the continental Fleet, the Ship Montgomery and two Floating Batteries. Since which nothing material has happened.

The sailors belonging to the Continental Fleet went up to Borden Town, and are mostly deserted.

I have now sent up W. C. Bradford to your Excellency for some money to pay the Fleet, as the men will undoubtedly desert if they do not get their pay. I have at present 3000 Dollars. In my last acquainted you had 6000 but have been obliged to lay some out for Cattle, Potatoes, & paying off some of the Fleet, that was not paid before, of which W. B., can give some acct. The Fleet has had but one Hogshead of rum since they came up, and none for some time before, so that your Excellency may think what I hear as I pass by them. I am alone as to a Board. Mr. Crispin is here but am exceeding sorry to say that I am in a manner obliged to be Commissary, unless in serving it out, for if things are provided for him he does very well but will take no pains to get one thing.

By many Persons from Philada., we have accounts that the enemy are fittfng out several Vessels to come up the River to attack us at

this place, but if they do I hope they will be disappointed in their views. For any thing particular, I must refer to the Bearer.

I am

Your Excellencys

most H'ble Servt

WM. BRADFORD.

Bristol, Novr 4, 1777.

Directed,

To His Excellency Thos. Wharton, Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania Lancaster.

Lt. A. Lochrey to President Wharton, 1777.

Honored Sir,

The Distressed situation of our Cuntery is such, that we have no Prospect But Disolation and Distruction, the whole county On the North side of the Rode from the Alegany Mountains to the River is all Keept Close in forts; and can get no subsistance from their Plantations: they have made application to us requesting to be put under Pay and Receive Rations, and as we could see no other way to keep the People from flying & Leeting the Cuntery be evacquiated we were Oblidged to adopt them measures (Requesting your Excellancy to give the necessary orders to enable us to put them in Execution if these very Measures Is Not adopted I see no other Method that can secure the People from giving up the Cuntery, these People while they support these fruntear Posts are certainly serving the publick) & Cartainly cannot Continue Long so to do unless supported by the Publick. Lieut Col. Charles Campble and fore other Persons is maide Prisoners on the waters of Blackleigs Creek, fore other men kill'd and scalped near the same pleace one man kill'd near Wallaces fort on Cunnomoch, Eleven other Persons Kill'd and Scalped at Palmers fort, Near Logonear amongst which is Ensign Woods at the Pleace where Col. Campble was maid Prisoner fore raskely Proclamations* wass Left by the Savages from the Governor of Detroit Requesting all Persons to come to him, or any other of the Garrisons occupied by His Majesties Troops and they should Receive Pay & Lodgings as they rank with us, every Private Person for encouragement to have 200 Acres of Land. In short there is very few Days there is not some murder committed on some part of our fruntears (if your Excellancy would Please to adopt our measures and give the necessary orders for Putting them into Execution: I Hoop with Divine assistance we shall be able to Hold the Cuntery till we are Enabled by the

* See page 402.

more Effectual Meashurs that Is Carring an Expedition In their Cuntery) we have likewise Ventured to erect two Stockaide forts at Logenear & Hannahs Town at the Publick expense, with a Store House in each to secure Both Publick and Private Property in, and Be a place of Retreat for the Suffering fruntears In case of needsessity which I flatter myself will meet with your Excellancys approbation, and Beigs Leave to subscribe Myself.

Your Excellancys

most oblidged most

Humb^l Servt

A. LOCHRY, Lieut.

Westmoreland, ye 4th Nov^r, 1777.

Directed,

On Public Service.

To His Excellancy Thos Wharton, jun^r, President of the shupraim Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Favoured by
Col. John Shields.

Wm. Buchanan to President Wharton, 1777.

York Town, 4th Nov., 1777.

Sir,

I am much obliged for the Confidence your Board are pleased to place in me, relative to fixing prices for the supplies of the Army. At present I shall confine myself to the articles of Beef, Pork and Whiskey. That of Grain will fall more properly into the Quarter Master's or Forage Master's Department. By their Limits to the Price of Wheat we must be governed as to that of Flour, unless we can purchase cheaper from some of the Neighbouring States, which I have good reason to expect we may, so that I have no apprehensions of danger from that Quarter.

Your liberal allowance for Pork is, I presume, made to prevent our falling short of a proper supply thereof. But let me assure you that the advices from all the neighbouring States afford us no better hopes. Many Gent^n from these States concur in the opinion that 6 dollars ought to be the fixed price. Even at that, considering the Expence of salt and Barrels, it will be dearer than fresh Beef, in the Price of which we seem to agree. The next article is Whiskey. This, although apparently trifling, you will think worth your notice

when I assure you that the yearly Expence for that wretched stuff is at the present Rates £200,000 above the accustomed price of it, besides the Effect it has on Grain, Forage and Carriage. The Profits are unjust as they are exorbitant and center in the hands of a few. I therefore propose one dollar ℔ Gal. for all good Whiskey delivered at Camp or at any of our Magazines on the East side of Susquehannah. In these Prices I hope your Concurrence and would wish how soon you would favour me therewith, that I may advertise the same for the Government of all concerned.

I am,

Sir,

Yr mot obdt hble servt,

WM. BUCHANAN, G. of P.

On publick service.

Directed,

To the Honourable, Thomas Wharton, Esquire, In Council of Safety, Lancaster.

Benj. Rittenhouse to Council of Safety, 1777.

To the Honerable Council of Safety of the State of Pensylvania.

Gentlemen,

In consequence of an order, obtain'd by Mr. Joseph Eastburn from the Council; Directed to Mr. Peter Dehaven, and myself, respecting the regulation of some of the prices of gun work desiring that we exercise our Judgment, and settle them without giving the Council any farther trouble. Mr. Dehaven nevertheless being unwilling to do any thing in a matter of this nature without having a proper authority for it. At the Earnest request of all the workmen I have taken the liberty to trouble the Council with a list of the prices of a few articles; which if you see propper to confirm or make such alterations as you judge necessary, Mr. Dehaven will acquiese in it. By a line please to let him know if the publick is to pay the expence of removing the workmens Families here. The whole is submited to the consideration of the Honourable board.

By.

Their Humble Servant,

BENJ. RITTENHOUSE.

Stocking a Musket,	15s	0d
Splicing a Stock,	8	9
Dressing Mounting,	8	9
Sawing Stocks,	1	8 each.

Humels Town, Novr 5th 1777.

Council of Safety to Wm. Buchanan, 1777.

In Council of safety

Lancaster, Novr 5, 1777.

Sir,

Your letter dated yesterday has been considered by a very full council, and after mature deliberation they are of opinion that it will not be prudent to offer less than seven dollars ℔ hundred for good Pork—among other considerations, it appears to them that there is danger of offending very many of our best friends by offering a lower price; and as there is too great a probability of a future scarcity of beef, which requires several years to produce it, the publick is greatly interested in the encouragement given for raising of pork, which is the growth of one year.

Inclosed is the resolves of the Council of this day which will also be enclosed to Genl Mifflin & to Col. Biddle.

Directed,

To Wm. Buchanan Esq., Commissary General.

Council of Safety to Col. Biddle, 1777.

In Council Safety, Lancaster, Novem^r 5, 1777.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 3d Inst* I had the pleasure to receive, and immediately laid the same before Council, they will cheerfully concur with the different Commissary & other officers who are providing Provisions & other necessarys for the army in every measure that can promote the Service of the United States. The exorbitant prices that every species of Provisions hath arisen to, is really alarming and calls for the exertions of every virtuous man, whether in or out of office to reduce; otherwise our Money, on the Credit of which we must hope to keep an army together, will be no better than waste paper, the difficulty of fixing the price of every article in the State, and to oblige the Inhabitants to comply with the regulations is too hazardous to undertake, the Council however think that such Provisions & Forrage as are wanted for the army should be kept within bounds, and that less objection will be made to the price being fixed on those for the use of the Troops, than if regulated for the People at large and being in hopes that in a little time they may have influence through the whole State, have come to the Resolution herein inclosed, and have appointed Commissioners in each County to whom you can apply in case you find it difficult to procure the articles required. Indeed

* See page 799.

another reason that induced Council to appoint Commissioners is they are informed that some of the Deputy Quarter Masters & Commissarys, have rendered the burthen very unequal by distressing some honest Whigs, and leting those not very friendly to our cause escape. I therefore request that attention may be paid to this; and as often as it can be done consistent with the good of the service, that those Gentlemen may be applyed to, in order to point out to you, & those acting under you, the places where Forrage can best be spared,

Directed,

To Colonel Biddle.

COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO COL. WM. BRADFORD, 1777.

In Council of Safety, Lancaster, Novr 6, 1777

Sir,

Yesterday, and not before, I had the pleasure of receiving your favour dated at Red bank October the 26th wch I laid before Council who are much obliged by the contents of your letter, altho' they had before rec'd the substance of it—you will please to continue your information from time to time as opportunity may offer—any assistance which the Council can afford to repel the common enemy, the Navy board and Commodore may be assured of receiving upon the first application—The severe check which the enemy has already received by the bravery of our men and good conduct of our officers, will convince them that they cannot effect their purpose of enslaving America so easily as they gave the world to understand they could, it is probable they will make another attack, and I trust they will meet with a like repulse, being well informed that General Washington has sent a reinforcement of men, as well for the Fort at Red Bank as for the Fleet.

As Mr. Crispin, the Commissary is with you I doubt not of the fleet receiving a regular supply of provisions—with respect to you and the Navy board,

I remain

Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

Directed,

To Colonel William Bradford, (copy.)

Council to State Navy Board, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, November 6th, 1777.

Sir,

The fourth instant I had the pleasure to receive your favour of the 30th day of October which I laid before Council who are perfectly convinced that the Gentlemen of the Navy Board will upon every occasion render all possible service to their much injured distracted Country. The late success of the American arms under General Gates as well as the glorious defence made at Red bank, and by our small fleet under Commodore Hazelwood, has put our affairs on a much more agreeable footing, and I believe will cause many an unhappy thought in the minds of those traitors who have basely deserted their country. The uneasiness which you mention will probably arise between the commodore and some others, I hope is, or will soon be at an end, if all differences between the sea and land officers, does not subside, and harmony and good will take place I dread the consequences, they will be fatal to our cause, and particularly to this State. It therefore will be highly commendable in the Gentlemen of your Board to afford their good offices in healing every breach and preventing animosity and rancour—As Mr. Crispin is now with you, I make no doubt the fleet will be regularly and well supplyed with provisions I have wrote him on the subject and in answer to his request for whiskey for the use of the fleet as he cannot procure rum I have told him that council will endeavour to procure some and send forward as soon as possible.

The Council have appointed Mr. William C. Bradford pay master to the fleet in the place of Mr. Webb who they are informed remain'd in the city—I beg my best compliments to the Gentlemen of the navy board and with great respect remain theirs and your

Most obedient

and very

hum. Servant

THOMAS WHARTON, jun'r pres'.

Directed.

To Joseph Blewer, Esq., Chairman State Navy Board.

Council to Commodore Hazelwood, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, November 6th, 1777.

Sir,

I duly received your letter dated the twenty ninth day of October* which I laid before council, who entertain the highest sense of the conduct and bravery of both officers and men of your fleet; and have no doubt that the same laudable Spirit and resolution will influence their conduct upon future occasions. The enemy I am convinced by this time find themselves greatly mistaken, and that the task of enslaving America is much more difficult than they affected to believe. The conduct of some of your officers and men in deserting you, in a time of danger is infamous indeed, but I hope that practice is now at an end, and that those who remain are actuated by a more noble principle. I should instantly upon the receipt of your letter have written to his Excellency General Washington on the subject of Supplying your fleet with men, but am well informed that a considerable reinforcement was on their march and would probably arrive at Red bank on Sunday last, the importance of defending the river and preventing the enemy's Fleet passing the Chevaux De Frize, is so obvious to his Excellency, that I have not the least doubt he comply'd with your request as soon as it was in his power; I will however hint it to him in my next letter. I am pleased the commissary is with you, that the fleet may receive regular and proper Supplys. In his letter to council he requests they would send a quantity of whiskey as he found a difficulty in procuring that or rum, this shall be complyed with as soon as it can be procured.

Council have appointed Mr. William C. Bradford pay-master to the fleet in the room of Mr. Webb who I am informed remained in the City of Philadelphia.

I am with my best compliments
to yourself and officers

Sir,
Your very humble Servant.

Directed.

To Commodore Hazelwood.

* See page 721.

Council to Colonel Boyd, 1777.

Lancaster, November 6, 1777.

Sir,

Council is very desirous that every possible effort be made to recover the fines & substitute money, as the vast sums of the publick money which has been paid out of the treasury for the purpose of hireing of substitutes, remaining uncollected so long, is not only running a risk of losing considerable sums, but is extremely inconvenient in many other respects, and it keeps the treasury so nearly exhausted as to be very mischievous in its consequences. To remove the difficulties which have been complained of, as preventing the speedy execution of this business, the Council of Safety has passed the enclosed Ordinance, which will enable you to do something effectual in the case. It may be proper for you to forward one to the Lieutenants & to each of the sub Lieutenants, lest they may not have received them.

I have the honor to be

With great respect,

Your very humble servant,

T. M.

Directed,

To Col[l] Boyd.

Council to William Crispin, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, November 6th, 1777.

Sir,

I received your letter dated the twenty-sixth day of October, which I laid before Council, they are pleased that the fleet have now a sufficient and regular supply of provisions, which they had some reason to believe was not the case for some time past.

William Buchanan, Esq[r], Commissary General of purchases, has or will fix the prices of beef, pork and whiskey for the army; and will give directions to all the deputy commissaries not to exceed those prices, he requests that those who buy for this state may conform thereto, and this council desires you will attend to it as well as to such prices as may be agreed upon by the Quarter Master General, for wheat or flour. Letters have passed between those Gentlemen and Council on this subject and their opinion as to prices are nearly the same. The following is what Council think should not be exceeded, viz., Wheat 8s. 6d. ℔ bushell, Rye 8s. 6d., Indian Corn

6s. 6d., Beef 10 dollars ℔ hundred, sinking what is called the fifth quarter, which will reduce it to eight dollars; pork seven dollars, whiskey 8s. 6d., full proof, best first crop of hay £7. 10s. ℔ Ton, second crop £6. Mr. Buchanan is of opinion that 7s. 6d. ℔ Gallon is enough for Whiskey and six dollars for pork, whether our reasons will induce him to allow the prices we have fixed, I don't know, but it will at any rate be very soon determined.

It will be absolutely necessary to salt both beef and pork for the use of the navy, especially as there is salt at the salt works belonging to this state. Mr. Bordon will be a very suitable person to have it put up, and to whom Council will write on the subject. Our Treasury is almost exhausted, so that for the present it is out of my power to send you the whole sum you require. If a good opportunity offers, in a day or two, shall send you two or three thousand pounds, and a further sum as soon as the chest is replenished. Council purposes to send a careful, prudent person to the salt works, to send forward to this state what salt is already made, to be distributed thro' the same; and therefore I hope and expect that Mr. Savage has a considerable quantity made, and will exert himself all in his power to serve the publick, who expect great matters from the large sum of money already expended. Your supplying him with three hundred pounds was well. I shall attend to your request for whiskey, and it is probable that some may be procured here, if it can, I will send you down a few hogsheads.

I am Sir,

Your very humble servant.

Directed,

To William Crispin, Esqr.

John Morris, Jun., to President Wharton, 1777.

Lancaster, Nov. 6th, 1777.

Sir,

The late Assembly of this State, in December last, directed Mr. Parr, the late Master of the Rolls for the state & Recorder of Deeds for the City & County of Philadelphia, to remove the Records in his Possession to this Borough. Here they have remained ever since in a lower Room in the House of Geo. Ross, Esqr. But Mr. Ross has long since Informed me that it is extremely inconvenient for them to remain there any longer & has much Importuned me to remove them to some other place. I have accordingly searched diligently & have now an opportunity of hiring two Rooms on an upper Floor in the House of Mr. Lyon, Tallow Chandler, near the Market House. But

considering the very great Importance of these Records, with respect to the public, as perhaps nine tenths of the good people of this state are Interested in their preservation, I must request the favour of your Excellency's & the Council's advice with respect to the propriety of the proposed place of Removal.

I have the Honor to be your

Excellency's most obedt &

Most hble Servant,

JOHN MORRIS, Jun.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Esqr, Lancaster.

JAMES SUTTER TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Pennsylla State Salt works New Jersey,
November, ye 6th 1777.

Sir,

I have the Honor of addressing myself to you in regard of the Detatchment of soldiers belonging to Col. Stewarts Regiment: and under my command, at the Pensylvania salt works. The soldiers belonged to Col. Attlees Reigt, and are still Prisoners, they look upon themselves to be free from the service of the state, which they first Inlisted in and likewise from Col. Stewarts Reigt the first day of January ensuing, which was agreeable to their Inlistment for two years, and at that day, they are all determined to march in a body, to Head quarters to get their discharge, which then will leave the works, unguarded, unless you Honor thinks meet to have another Detatchment agreeable to the Act passed by the Honorable the assemble of this state, exempting a number of men for the use, and as guards, for the works of which your Honor will be pleased to take under considerations, as likewise the arms & amunition that I have down here, whether I shall detain them, or let the men march with them, your Honor will be pleased to inform me in regard of the same.

I am, Sir,

your Honors

most Humble Servt,

JAMES SUTTER.

N. B. The most of the army, and all the amunition, belongs to the State.

Directed,

To The Honble Tho. Wharton Jr., President of the Honble Council of the State of Pensylvania.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1777.

War Office, Novr 7, 1777.

Sir,

In consequence of a Reference from Congress & in obedience to their Resolution of the 13th of October, Ult'o I have it in direction to inform you that the Board have taken into their consideration your Excellency's Letter of the 3d Inst in which you mention that a list of the Clothing wanted in the Continental Army has been laid before the Council.

It is with Pleasure the Board hear that Commissaries have been appointed by the Council in the several Counties of your State for the purpose of collecting Blanketts, Shoes & Stockings for the use of the Army, tho' it is to be wish'd their Commision had been more extensive than what you mention it to be.

It was not the opinion either of Congress or the board that the Collection of these Articles should be confined merely *to such of the dissaffected "as could possibly spare them"* The Wants of the Army are so great, and the Importannce of their being enabled by seasonable Supplies of Blanketts to keep the Field so evident that the Board fondly hoped the well affected of all classes would have *cheerfully contributed* such Articles *"as they could have possibly spared"* & that the Powers of Government would have *compelled* the disaffected to furnish the necessaries wanted, as they are essential to the Existence of the Army, without paying a more scrupulous Attention to their Comforts than these infatuated Wretches have Shewn to the Lives and Liberties of the Loyal Citizens of these States. It is the Sentiment of the Board that these Persons, whom continued Lenity has not been able to reclaim, and many of them have comfortable Houses & Fires to make up for the Deficiency of Articles taken from them, Should be left bare of Shoes and Blankets, rather than that the Continental Army, which is the grand Bulwark of the Liberties of an extensive Continent, and now actually engaged in the Defence of this State, Should sink under the Rigours and Inclemency of a Winter Campaign, for the want of Articles which are in the Possession of persons who triumph in their Misery, & the public Calamities.

The Board are sensible that your Excellency & the Honorable Council will approve of the Candor with which they deliver their Sentiments on this interesting subject when they assure you that these sentiments are founded not only upon the Duty they owe to the welfare of the United States, but on the anxious zeal they possess for the Recovery of your Metropolis before the Enemy are able to render themselves Masters of the Water Defences & to secure themselves so strongly as to render their Expulsion extremely difficult, if not inpracticable during the Winter & this great End cannot be effected should the Army thro' the want of Necessaries be reduced to

the necessity of retireing early into Winter Quarters. General Washington in a very late Letter to Congress has expressed his strong apprehensions on this head & the Board are therefore constrained again to repeat their warmest Sollicitations that your Excellency & the honorable Council will be pleased to order the Collections of Shoes & Blanketts as extensive & expeditious as possible.

Before the Conclusion of this Letter the Board beg Leave to inform your Excellency & the Honorable the Council that the Desertions from the Continental Army have of late been considerable & that there is too much Reason to think that many of them are harboured by the dissaffected & interested in your State, The Board have therefore to request that the Honble Council will be pleased to adopt such Regulations with respect to the securing & forwarding to the Army all Deserters therefrom as they shall deem most effectual for the Purpose.

I have the Honor to be
with great Respect
your very obed^t
humble Servt,
RICHARD PETERS, Secy.

Directed,

On public Service,

To His Excellency Thomas Wharton Jr., Esqr, President of the Council of Pennsilvania, Lancaster.

Council to Gen. Potter, 1777.

Lancaster, 7th November, 1777.

Sir,

Council find a difficulty of paying the Militia of Northumberl'd for want of a pay-master. On consulting some Gentlemen of the County, it is thought best to refer to you for a nomination, some of the classes now out are on the frontier, others with you.

Col. Clarke will explain to you how pleasing accounts are from Cumberland, as to the Militia From York, the Lieu^t wrote us some weeks since that he had broken the knot, wch opposed his exertions. Col. Hunter writes that he will get the men but can expect to send down few arms. Some musquets will be furnished as they pass, but far from enough, It is reasonable to think there must be many arms at Camp at this time. To secure these would be an useful precaution. Here the most strenuous endeavors are using. Two or three Convictions of Constables yesterday for refusing to give in lists, will have their use. One is fined £45, the others, £30 each. Berks we dare say will not be behind. Colonel Morgan has been successful heretofore. Bucks, & the two other old Counties, are less under

notice here. But there is good reason to think a very considerable number will be in motion in 8 or 10 days. The rout of the Militia, who take Lancaster in their way should be settled in time, some direction on this point is desirable. Y^r Letter written about the 27th of Oct^r, without date, came to hand, & deserves thanks. Be so good as to give a line or two when leisure permits. We have reason to expect there are near five hundred of the Militia of Northampton now in the Camp, two other classes are ordered.

I am,

Sir,

y^r very obed^t Servt,

Genl Potter.

Council to Messrs John Harris & Robert Elder, Pextang, 1777.

Lanc'r, 8th Nov, 1777

Gent.

Council have seen a letter dated the 19th Sept, last from Mr. Harris to Wm. Henry, Esquire, by wch it appears you have stopped a quantity of salt, as in improper hands, your attention & zeal for the public Interest is very laudable at a time when too many shocked & enfeebled by the local circumstances of this State, & its Capital, overlook the decisive strokes given the enemy elsewhere, are disconcerted. But it will perhaps be proper; that you should consider matters in a larger view than you appear to have done, you must see that the disaffected are numerous, & men disposed to act in the direct service much taken up, and not to be spared for other purposes. The Tories may be made serviceable in many respects, & to a very great degree. Interest will dispose them to plow & raise corn; to fatten Cattle & other beasts; to make leather; & so on, others among them induced by gain, have set up Salt works; Ventured their substance at Sea, & in various other modes indirectly & undesignedly promoted our affairs. If then they carry on any business, that may be eventually advantageous, in Gods name, let them go on. The country it appears are very slow in finding the way to numerous Salt works on the sea side. Should we stop the disaffected among others from going, salt will cease coming, & the Country suffer beyond what it has already done, on the other hand, a free Trade & the great profits made by the manufacturers & dealers in salt, which is likely in a short time to be produced in vast quantities, will gradually but certainly lower the prices. The Regulations heretofore made concerning the price of salt, have certainly increased the scarcity; for this article

being not of our own produce, the regulations could operate only on what was actually within the state.

Tories it is true do not merit the privileges of Citizens; but good policy does not perhaps call us further, than the length of the Act of Assembly, which only incapacitates from buying & selling lands, not goods. It is but to stick by the words of Laws, & not give ground for imputations of Tyranny. These people doubtless derive many unmerited advantages from their baseness, but let us take all the good we can out of them. They may be partial as dealers, yet their attention to their own lucre, Supplies the Country, & in this article of salt, it is plain they will in the end do good.

Council therefore hope, that you, Gentlemen upon further consideration, will think it best to let the salt pass into the Country, as the possessors shall see best. They can have no temptation to carry it to the Enemy. This parcell will supply a number of the settlers Induced by profit & Secure of finishing their schemes under the public protection, these dealers will introduce larger Quantities, & forward the point aimed at; the relief of the Country. Induced by profit, these dealers will send for a further Quantity. Could the farmers be persuaded to send agents to the sea shore to secure salt, & then drive down their waggons to the Jersey & Delaware shores, as some have done, they might obtain it, at comparatively moderate rates, & disappoint these unconscionable Huxters, thus they would presently lower the price of this necessary article & relieve the Country beyond any other practicable method.

Should any persons within this State buy up salt or other goods within this State, they will fall within the ordinance just made against Engrossing. By this they may be regularly corrected & punished. Like practices in Maryland or elsewhere without our state our Laws can not well reach to.

Could, &c.,

T. M.

Directed,

To John Harris, & Robt Elder.

E. Gerry to President Wharton, 1777.

York, in Pennsylvania, Nov 8, 1777.

Dear Sir,

The following books are much wanted by some Gentlemen of Congress, & are not to be procured in this place; if they are to be found in ye Pennsylvania Library, which we are informed is removed

by order of your Excellency to Lancaster, I shall be much obliged to you for ye loan thereof being,

With respect

your Excellenceys

very hum. Servt

E. GERRY.

Vattell's Law of Nations, Grotius, Puffendorf.

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq., Lancaster.

GEN. JAMES POTTER TO PRESIDENT WHARTON, 1777.

Head Quarters at Mr. Garrets, Nov 8th, 1777.

Sir,

This moment your favour to Colonels Cheney and Grunow, was handed me wherein you have directed them to take my advice with respect to the immediate raising of three or four Troops of Light Horse. In the first place I woud beg leave to observe to the President and Council that if the most expeditious measures were pursued those Troops cou'd not be raised and equipped fit for service before the expiration of this campaign, and consequently cou'd not be of that service for which they were intended, at present I have Volunteers who are acquainted with the Country & answer every purpose of Dragoons. If it should be necessary His Excellency Genl Washington will 'send me any number I may have occasion for—Shou'd we end the Campaign gloriously 'twill save us an expense if not, they may be raised in the Spring, in time to be of service, these are my reasons for discouraging the raising those Troops which I submit to you and Council for consideration.

And am

respectfully

Your most obed^t

JAS. POTTER.

Directed.

On public Service.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jun^r, Esq., President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

☞ Express.

Board of War to President Wharton, 1777.

War Office, Nov 8th, 1777,

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that the Board have taken into their consideration your Letter relative to the abuses alledged to be committed in the Quarter Master General's Department, & particularly the charges made against Col. Hooper & Col. Biddle & they are of opinion that an immediate enquiry should be made into matters wherein the public Interest is so materially concerned. I am to request your Excellency will please to favour the Board with the Evidence on which these charges are founded & especially the Testimony against Col. Hooper, which they wish to have at an early Day as he, in consequence of the Charge against him being transmitted to General Mifflin, has attended the Board & called upon them for an Enquiry into his conduct. The Board will consider what is to be done in the case of Col. Duykinck.*

I have the Honour to be
with great Respect
your very obed't Servt
RICHARD PETERS, Sec'y.

Directed
On Public Service.
His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jr., Esq., President of the Council of Safety of Pennsilvania Lancaster.

Col. Morgan to President Wharton, 1777.

Reading, Novr 9th, 1777.

Sir,

I Received your Excellency's orders of the 24th of October, and have sent orders to the Different Officers in the County to call out the Militia of the 5 & 6 Classes of the Several Companies to Come in and to procure all the Arms Accoutrements and Blankets that they could find in their Several Districts the men have pretty generally turn'd out and come to Reading, but have procured but very few Arms Accoutrements or Blankets, and are unwilling to go to Camp without them. I expect we shall arm and Accouter 2 or 3 Companies to morrow and send to Camp but what we shall do for

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI, p. 365.

arms for the rest of the companies that are here and are comeing in I know not. There are now in camp 2 Classes which have taken up the greatest part of our arms, &c., we had in store. The Bearer Col. Valentine Eckert will inform your Excellency more particularly how our affairs stand. Please to send your commands by him.

I am
your Excellency's
most Humble Servt
JACOB MORGAN, L. B. C.

Directed,
To his Excellency Thomas Wharton, jun'r President.

DAN'L ROBERDEAU TO COUNCIL, 1777.

York Town, Novr 10th 1777.

Sir,

A Committee of Congress have occasion of the under mentioned Law Books, which one of them sais were in the Library belonging to the State in Philada., therefore I am desired to apply to you for the immediate Loan of them, and that they may be sent by express, if a good opportunity does not very soon offer. If the books of the State were not brought to Lancaster you are requested to borrow these books of some Gentlemen there and forward them.

I am
very respectfully
Sir,
yr most obt humi Servt
DANIEL ROBERDEAU.*

Vattell, Puffendorf, Grotius.

Directed,
His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq., President of the Commonwealth of Pennsilvania Lancaster.

Favoured by
Mr. Adams.

* See a letter of similar import on p. 754.

Council to Geo. Ross, D. Q. M., 1777.

Lancaster, Novr 10th, 1777.

Sir,

The Council desire that you will immediately provide quarters for the Militia of this State now in this Borough, as they conceive it is your duty to do; but if you have any orders which forbid your compliance herewith, the Council request you to inform them of such orders—No delay ought to be made in a case of this kind, while the people are exposed to the unclemency of the weather.

I am with
great respect
your very
humble servant
T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

Directed,
To George Ross, D. Q. M.

John Harris to Council, 1777.

Paxton, Novem^r 10th, 1777.

Sir,

Yours I Rec'd, dated the 8th Inst, & observe the Contents, the salt you mention is long since gone to N^ethumberl^d Co'ty, I admire that Fry a known Enemy to our cause (by his past conduct) shoud presume to make himself or his connections so busy in Reporting that I seized a large Q'ty of salt & Detained it &c., I now inform you that Col. Jas. Burds Son a prisoner & Major Taken at Long Isleand in our service told me that he had heard George Fry & Sam'l Wallace had a large Q'ty of Salt in partnership Taken at or near the head of Elk by the Enemy, I told him I did not believe it unless it was a maneuvre of theirs designing it might fall into their hands as s^d Fry & Wallace were (suspected Tories) s^d Wallace did also inform me that he had some time agoe purchased 400 bushels of salt at or near the head of Elk & that Mathias Hough of Lancas^r had Bo^t an equal Q'ty ab^t same time at £5. 0*s.* 0*d.* ℔ Bushel, Wallace s^d his salt was to come to Middletown in order for transportation up the Susquehanna, &c., and that he wou'd let his neighbours have it at ab^t the prime cost, I much commended him for his public spirit, &c., but Sir, George Fry did sell some of the s^d Wallaces salt its supposed at Middletown at the modest sum of Ten Pounds ℔ Bushel, 14 or £15

℔ Bushel is p^d at Lancas^r for salt latterly its s^d, & if Mr. Elder had not visited the Middletown stores to see the Qty of salt, there I believe little or none wou'd ever gone up to N^thumberland Co'ty of it Mr. Elder only order'd G. Fry's Clark to tell Fry his master or employer to take proper care of all the affors^d salt Belonging to Wallace & other persons up the River & not to sell it but to let the proper owners have it, informing him when it went away, &c. The selling salt at 10 or 15£.0*s*. 0*d*., ℔ Bushel mostly by Tories, &c., is not looked on as taking advantage of the times but a Reasonable profit, salt many years sold here at & abt 5*s*. 0*d*. ℔ Bushel the owners p^d something for it besides the carryage, &c., the men that has made most by the present Distress'd people are in my opinion Enemys to this State in General. I am oblidged to you for y^r letter & hopes to act the part of a good subject to this State, let the Consequence be what it may, I acquisce with you that good use of the Tories may be made in many respects but I think many of them will escape the halter that deserves it by their actions, I have lately Taken up many of them, has some now in custody, they had better let myself & character alone, as I have Reign'd & Ruled over them for the time past, & will whilst I can,

I remain Sir

with the greatest

Respects your most

Obed^t Humble Servant.

JOHN HARRIS.

P. S. I dont want Collol Burds Sons name mentioned as it was accidental conversation between us, but as the seizure of the Middletown salt has made so much noise I chuse to give you a little acco^t of it, Fry ran away like a guilty wretch when myself Coll. Elder & Joshua Elder, Esq., & others arrived in town Imagining wee wanted to visit himself, &c.

Sir y^rs &c.

J. H.

Robert Morris to Council of Safety, 1777.

Lancaster, November 11th, 1777.

Gent^n,

It is now three years since I have devoted nearly the whole of my time to the publick service, and have almost entirely neglected my own affairs, which being very extensive at that period have consequently run into a good deal of confusion and as the circumstances of my Partner are so very different from my own I have concluded to put an end to the Copartnership & wind up the business of the

House, you must be sensible this will require the command of a good deal of time and I am therefore under a necessity of requesting your leave of absence as a Delegate in Congress for this State for Six Months, but at all times I shall most cheerfully give such attendance as may be necessary to prevent any of the Public business heretofore under my care from suffering and indeed I propose to adjust some of the Publick accounts that cannot be done whilst my attention is engaged in the House. I have the honour to remain with the greatest respect,

Your Honours,

Most obed't hble Servt.,

ROBT. MORRIS.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thos. Wharton, Junr, Esqr, Presid^t, & the Honble Council of Safety for the State of Pennsylvania.

Council of Safety to Robert Morris, 1777.

In Council of Safety, Nov. 11, 1777.

I have laid before the Council of Safety your Letter of this Date, and I have the pleasure to inform you that the Council are fully sensible of the Importance of your Services as well as the Justice of your present Request.

I am therefore ordered to acquaint you that this Commonwealth will dispense with your personal attendance in Congress for Six Months; at the same time I am also to acquaint you that as often as the other engagements mentioned in your application will admit & the Necessity of publick affairs, with which you have been more immediately connected may require, you will give your attendance.

I am Sir.

Directed.

To the Hon. Robt. Morris, Esq.

Council to Colonel J. Morgan, 1777.

In Council, Lancaster, November 11, 1777.

Sir,

I rec'd your letter of the 9th instant, which I laid before Council, who are highly pleased to find that your Militia turn out generally, this will encourage others, and I hope very shortly to find that there is a sufficient number at Camp to enable his Excely, Genl. Washington, to reduce Genl. Howe to submit to the same or worse terms than Genl. Burgoyne has. I am perfectly well convinced of the attention which you and the sub Lieutenants have paid to this matter; it is nevertheless necessary that you should not abate in your zeal, but continue your utmost exertions. Arms & accoutrements I do expect you will recive at Camp, and therefore you must not admit any delay of the Militia on that account. The want of blankets, at this season especially, is very distressing, but how to remedy this evil immediately I know not. The Council has passed an ordinance* empowering sundry Commissions to collect arms & accoutrements, shoes, stockings, blankets, &c., but this I am afraid will not answer your purpose, and am at a loss to know how to advise, it is however the opinion of council that if nothing better can be done you must appoint some prudent, discreet, officers & men, in different parties, and send forward to collect from such of the inhabitants as have not taken the oath of allegiance or who have aided or assisted the enemy, as many blankets as you have occasion for, giving a certificate for the same directed to you, or to one of the sub Lieut^s who are to pay for the same, at the rate allowed in the enclosed order. The officer to leave the blanket so procured with Genl Armstrong, or the Commanding officer of our Militia, taking his receipt for the same; these can be made use of by the succeeding militia. This method Council would not adopt if they could be collected in a more eligible way. And must recommend to you to appoint none but such on whose prudence, sobriety & good conduct you can entirely depend on.

T. W

Directed,

To Col^o Morgan.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XI, p. 339.

Council to Commissioners of Lancaster Co., 1777.

Lancaster, Nov. 11, 1777.

Gentlemen,

The great importance of the enclosed order will require the immemediate exertion of every possible means to execute it in the most extensive manner and especially in procuring blankets & shoes. The season will admit of no delay.

I am with great respect,

Your very humble servant,

T. MATLACK, Secy.

Directed,

To Commiss. of Lancaster, Berks, Cumberland, Northampton, Philad.

Lieutenant Sam. Hunter to President Wharton, 1777.

Fort Augusta, 11th Nov^r, 1777.

Sir,

This day there is the third & fourth Classes of three Battalions of this County Militia marches to joine the army under his Excellency General Washington, under the command of Col^l James Murray, the two Classes of Col^l Cookson Long's Battalion I have ordered to do duty on the Frontiers, as the first Class of this county, that was commanded by Col. John Kelly, has come off from thence, after serving there two months, and to incourage the poor scatered Inhabitants to Return back to their habitations again induced me to do this, which I hope will be aproved of by Council.

The Militia that marches now is badly of for Blankets and severals goes without any and but thinly cloathed otherwise, which shows their attachment to the American cause, though poor yet brave and can be depended uppon for their integrity. The first Class that did Duty up at the Bald Eagle lookes to me for their pay, as now their two months is out and they are come home with the loss of two men Drounded on their way Down the River. If its agreeable to you to send me about three Thousand Dollars as I was obliged to advance a Good sum for those now on their march.

I am Sir, your most

Obed^t Humb^e Servt,

SAM. HUNTER.

Directed,

To His Excelency, Thomas Wharton, President of the Executive Council, Lancaster.

Thomas Savadge to President Wharton, 1777.

Pennsylvania Saltworks, Novem^r 11th, 1777.

Sir,

Inclosed you have a Copy of an Act of Assembly of this State of New Jersey, for exempting the men employed here from duty in the Militia under certain restrictions; the coppy Inclosed is not authenticated by the Secretary, but have ordered Mr Daniel Griggs, the bearer hereof, to call on James Mott, Esqr, one of the members of Assembly, for one, which I doubt not but he will furnish you with.

The men raised under this Act, in my Humble Opinion, must be under the direction of the manager of the Works, and contracted with in a peculiar manner for that purpose as the will be wanted at different Occupations to compleat and carry on the works, therefore it will be necessary some person be appointed to engage and enrole such persons as are necessary—which at present ought to consist of six Carpenters, one Smith, one Bricklayer, one Wheelright, three Carters, six Wood Cutters, six sober Labouring men to attend the making salt, two officers under the manager as assistants, as the Works must go night and day, one must be always on duty that nothing be imbeseled, if they are to do duty as gards and keep centrys out, the number must be double all but the officers, but in my Humble Opinion it will be better the gards consist of Soldiers and inlisted for that purpose, because so great a change of men in the Works will be liable to such inconveniences as will render the Works of little service and bring the person who carries them on in disgrace, a part of which I have already experienced; having several weeks ago some pans ready to begin to work, the first man I entrusted to boil them damaged them so much that I have not been able to make them fitt for work untill to day; and now have scarce a man I can depend upon, neither can I hire one for money in this part of the State that can be depended on; there must be two Teams Bought & sent down here to take the salt away and directions where to send it to.

I have agreed with James Mott, Esqr for a part of his place containing fourteen hundred acres for which I am to give three thousand five hundred pounds in continental money, there being a mortgage on the place, have sent Mr Daniel Griggs for the money with whom you may entrust it very safely, should have come myself but the distance is so great that it would take me too long & as every thing must stand still whilst away and what few people I have would be gon.

Capt Sutter's people's time will be up the first of January next, there is few or none of them will answer me being mostly very

ordinary fellows and will not work steady, should be glad to know whether they leave their arms and amunition here or not.

I am Sir,

Your Honours Most Obedient

Humble servant,

THOMAS SAVADGE.

PS. Please to send by Mr Griggs the names of the persons to whom it is to be conveyed in trust.

Directed,

To The Honble Thos Wharton, Jur., President of the Honble Council of the State of Pensylvania.

No. 1.

Act of New Jersey to Encourage Making of Salt, 1777.

An Act to Encourage the making of Salt at the Pennsylvania Salt Works in the State of New Jersey.

Whereas the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania have in behalf of the said State Erected a set of Works for the making of Salt near Toms River in the County of Monmouth in this State, by the Name of the Pennsylvania Salt Works, and have made Application to the Legislature to have such Men as they shall Employ at the said Works (not being Inhabitants of this State) Exempted from the Duties Enjoined by the several Acts of this State for Regulating the Militia.

Be it therefore Enacted by the Council and General Assembly of this State, and It is hereby Enacted by the Authority of the same that it Shall and May be Lawful for Thomas Savage the Present Manager of the said Pennsylvania Salt Works, and for the Manager of the said Works for the time being to Cause to be enrolled any number of men that may be necessary to be Employed in and about the Said works and to Cause a Copy or Copies of such Enrollment to be delivered to the Captain or Captains of the Militia in whose District or Districts such men shall be Employed and whenever any of the men so enrolled shall Leave the said Works or be dismissed by the said Thomas Savage, or the Manager of the Said Works for the Time Being, Others may be enrolled as aforesaid to supply Their Places, and notice thereof given to the Captain or Captains as aforesaid, Provided always that the men so Enrolled be Inhabitants of the State of Pennsylvania and not Subjects to the Militia Laws of this State at the time of such Enrollment and be bona fide Employed in and About the Said Salt Works and that they

be such only as shall Voluntarily Consent thereto, and Shall Sign Such Enrollment under the Command of Such Officers as shall be Nominated by the said Executive Council of Pennsylvania and Commissioned by the Governor of this State.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority Aforesaid that the Men so Enrolled shall be furnished and Equipped by the Said Thomas Savage, or the Manager of the said Salt Works for the time Being, With Arms Ammunition and Accoutrements according to the directions of the Act entitled an act for the better regulating the Militia, which Arms Ammunition and Accoutrements, when not in actual Service, shall be lodged in a Magazine or Magazines to be Kept at or Near the said Salt Works, under the Care and Direction of the Manager of the Said works for the time Being, to be used as occasion May Require; and that the Men so Enrolled shall be disciplined in Arms by being regularly Mustered and exercised under the Direction of the Officers so to be Appointed and Commissioned as afore said at least as frequently as by the said Act for better regulating the Militia is Required and Directed for the Enrolled Militia of this State, under the same fines and forfeitures for Neglect (and to be recovered and applied in the same Manner) as such men would have been subject to, for not attending Muster according to the Directions of the said Recited act, if This act had not been made, but shall not be called away from the Said Works on Musters or Reveiws, nor be Called into actual service as Militia other than by the Direction of the Manager of the said Salt Works for the time Being or the Officers so as aforesaid to be appointed and Commissioned, for the immediate Protection and Defence of the said Works, or on an invasion or Alarm in the Neighbourhood thereof.

Council Chamber, Oct 7, 1777.

This Bill having been three times read in Council, Resolved that the same Do pass.

By order of the House.

JOHN STEVENS, V. Prest.

House of Assembly, Oct 6, 1777.

This Bill having been three times Read in the House of Representatives, Resolved that the same Do Pass.

By order of the House.

JOHN HART, Speaker.

The foregoing is a true copy.

JONA DEARE,

Clerk of the Assembly, State of New Jersey.

Lieut. William Coats to Pres. Wharton, 1777.

Sir,

I embrace the oppertunity by Co[l] Dewees to inform you that I had Honour of receiving your orders of the 23d of October, ordering out two Classes more of the Militia, which by order was the 7th & 8th Classes; before I left Lancaster I waited on your Excellency to know if you had any orders concearning the Malitia, and if you recolect you gave me, a kind of Discretionary powers to act agreeable as things might turn up in Consequence thereof I invited the Leiuts of Bucks County to Confer together the result of which was to call out the three remaining Classes and to hire no more substitutes then to fix the sum on Dilinquents to be recover'd. One of our reasons for caling out the three remaining Classes was that it is likely by the time there time would expire the Campain would probably be at an end and we was Desireous that they all should be on a fatting as we are in hopes an alteration in the Militia law will take place at the next meeting of the Assembley we had sent our orders before we recesived your's, and was happy to find we had done every thing agreeable to the Commands, we afterwards receiv'd, I have just returned from Smithfield where I have been faithfully employ'd for Eight days, in turning out the three Classes of the 3d Battalion, and last wensday march'd one good Company out of the whole to head Quarters, which is full as much as I expected to do, as the enemy every Day or two are making excurtions eight or ten miles into the Country Distresing the Inhabitants which has struck such a Panick amoung them, that it is impossible to get them to start. Co[l] Kirkbride and myself intend seting of for head Quarters to morrow, to arrange the Militia as they arrive, and when done shall furnish the Councill with a Return of the Number of men from each County. I have sent Co[l] Dewees to you for two thousand Dollars more, as next week the 4th & 5th Classes time is up, and we shall have the Substitutes to pay of which will amount to a large some as they have been engag'd at 100 Dollars each. Last wensday morning a heavy fireing began down the river, am sorry it is not my power to send you the account of the perticuler's of that day, moore than that, Co[l] Kerkbride see a person at Newtown who had seen two Gentleman on their way to Camp, who informed that the Enemy had Cros'd the river with three thousand men to attack the fort at Redbank, that a Body of our men came on them in the rear at the time of their makeing the Attack on the fort, and had intirely routed them, I wish it was in my power to send you the above as a Certainty than as a Report.

I have the Honour to remain
your Excellency's
Most Obedient
Humble Servant,
WM. COATS, Lieu[t].

Bell Vew, November 7th, 1777

Camp at Whitemarsh, November 12th, 1777.

Sir,

I expected you would have receiv'd the foregoing before this, but Co[l] Dewees misd of it till yester day, since which I have been and am now at camp, where all the men we can Muster are comeing in, since my comeing here General Armstrong has given me orders to raise two Company's of Artilery out of those of the City that are now Discharg'd which I am now doing, and when done will fall short of the number of Substitutes that should be ingaged for the three Classes that are now Call'd out for the County, the reason of his Ordering me to act as above are that the City Leiut Cannot call upon his People at this time, and if the men are not ingaged the Brigade will be obliged to give up their pieces of Artillery, which is a thing the General cant think of, and I hope my acting agreable to the General's Orders will be approv'd of by the Councill and to enable me to fulfill my Ingagements, I hope your Excellency will be so good as to dispatch Col[l] Dewees with the money sent for, there it nothing new at Camp more then the Reinforcement from Gen[l] Gates of 6000, is expected will be here to-morrow Co[l] Morgan and his men has been here this two days I shall be glad if I am whanted to attend the House you will please to let me know by the return of Co[l] Dewees, our Enemys, to the Constitution here say that we Cant make a House, and that we have given up the Constitution.

I remain your Excellencys

Most Obedient

Humble Servant,

WM. COATS, Leu[t].

Directed,

His Excellency Thomas Wharton Jun[r] Esq[r], President of the Supreme Executive Council for the State of Pennsylvania.

P Favour of Co[l] Dewees.

RD. MCCALLISTER TO PRES'T WHARTON, 1777.

Hanover, Nov[r] 12th, 1777.

Sir,

Your Excelency Menchened in y[r] Last Letter to me that if the 4th & 5th Classes dident turn out pritey Generally then the other 2 Class should be sent forth also.

These 2 Classes have turned out Past Expectation, som parts the Class made up a Company, but for the Gratest Part I threw two

Classes together where they were like to be small Companeys, and made one large one & made the ofesers cast lots who should goo.

But in the whole I beleve about one half or som better is gon in those two Classes perhaps 3 parts in 4, the Grate Number of Quakers, Mananest & Dunkers in this County ocations the Companeys to be so hard to be filled up, the others in the uper end of the County which is mostly Irish People and Low Dutch goes Prettey Generall; the People Complain much of being hurryed out in such Grate Numbers as they say, Indeed maney will not beleve it is the orders of Council but my own doings; However I shall comply wth my orders as far as Posable, & should be glad to know if the other two Class is to have orders to march, which shall be don Imeditly. I have purchesed all the good arms I could git since I Rec^d y^r orders, & put them into the hands of good men, there one arms & blankets appraised &c. So many scrupolis people as we have ocation much hiring and deter the busiess much.

I am,

Y^r Excellencies Most obt s^t

RD M'CALESTER.

Directed,

To His Exelency Thomas Wharton, Esqr, President of the Exe^c Council, Lancaster.

Wm. Shippen, Esq., Director General, to Congress, 1777.

Bethlehem Novem^r 12, 1777.

"The pressing necessity of the Hospitals which begin to feel the "Effects of cold & dirt (I foretold in my last to the Medical Com-"mittee) call on me to address you in a serious manner and urge "you to furnish us with an immediate supply of Cloathing, so abso-"lutely requisite for the very existence of the sick now in the "greatest distress in the Hospitals, & indispensably necessary to "enable many, who are now well, & detained solely for the want of "Cloathing, to return to the field."

General James Potter to President Wharton, 1777.

Sir,

I Received your excelancey's favour of the seventh of this Instant wherein you have been please to desier me to Recommend a man for paymaster to Northumberland County. The Bearer, Mr Thomas Jurdan, Is reputed an honest man and I think will answer for paymaster if you see cause to appoint him.

As for news I have not much. Yesterday there came up our

River 38 sail of the enemy's ships, what number of troops were on Board is a sacret to me. I went to Chister in the evening but could not larn, there has been very have firing this three days past, the first day they did no damage to the works or any man. I pray do the other two may be like the first. I have Inteligance almost every day from the city. How is the best whig maker in the United States, he has Convarted many from the Evell of their ways and turned them unto their Cuntrey. Distress and want is likely to abound in the City, I am told the poor would have suffered before this time if General Washington had not alowed them to get flour at the Frankford mills. Friend How is not a parshal man, He uses Whig and Torey aliek, which is the best thing I can say of him.

The friends to Government lent friend How one Hundred Thousand pounds, I believe by this time he would not refuse security if offered. The enemy have maid two floting Battereys, they are maid on a bad Construction and sink so deep in the water that they will do us little damige, I hope, I have this minit Received an Account of two Brigs and one sloop of the enemy geting past our fort last night into the Schulkill and unloading at the lowest ferry, they came up between the fort and Provance Island, in the night, they Brought up Before in Boats the same way. My men brought in this day five British soldiers prisoners, we each them nappin. Some times firing has been havey this day, but we stand it as yet. I have Treyed this day to get one to go to Ridbank this night, and to morrow I hope I will get an account from there, I have just received a letter from George Reed, Esqr, president of the Delawer state, Informing me that there Militia has seased a number of people that were supplying the enemys shipping with fresh provisions and vegitables and destroyed six of their Vessels in Duck Creek. Three weeks ago I advised the Taking and Keeping Provance Island and Carpanters if this had been dun, frend How would been Hungrey by this time, now it will not be Easey To take these Islands, tho it appears to me that som thing must be dun.

I am with Esteem your
Excelanceys most Obedient
Humble Servant

JAS POTTER.

Camp at Mr Lewés, Novr 12th, 1777.

We have it reported that on Wednesday last our people sank a sixty four gun ship. On Monday last our people took 12 light horse and some feet prisoners; I have often been told the Soldiers in the City have been hard to say often that they looked on themselves as our prisoners, and one day one of there Sentanls Told Majo-Taler sow.

Directed.—On public service, His Excelancey Thomas Wharton, Esqr., Lancaster.

☞ Favour of Mr. Thos Jurson.

DAN'L ROBERDEAU & W. CLINGAN TO PRES. WHARTON, 1777.

York Town, Novr 13th 1777.

Sir,

Congress have referred the inclosed petition to the Council of this State, together with which we were desired to furnish a more particular account of the Petitioner, Parson Batewell's state of health &c., accordingly we have just visited him, and found him a prisoner in a private house much emaciated, and afflicted with Rhumatic pains in his Knees, which incapacitates him for walking, but confessed he was much better than while he was in prison.

He offers his parole as well as Bail if he is allowed to go to his former place of abode in this County, twenty one miles distant from hence, or permitted to take the fresh air, and exercise here, for the recovery of his health, wch we are of opinion may effect it. He requests a speedy result of your Honble Board that he may sell or remove his effects and three children now at the above place, a glebe belonging to the Church, as he cannot afford to keep two families. The papers belonging to Mr Batwell taken with his person were deposited in the hands of Mr. McClane in this Town, who applied to one of us to know how they should be disposed of, which was moved to Congress, but they would give no orders concerning them, therefore they wait your commands, and are as yet undisclosed, except two letters of no great importance communicated to one of us.*

We have the happiness to inform the state that Confideration has this Evening passed Congress, but have it not in our power as yet to communicate it, as the several articles tho' agreed to are not arranged in the order they are to appear, which we hope will be effected tomorrow, as they are committed for that purpose, and to have it in our power very soon to lay them before the State, therefore we ardently wish a full representation of the State may be convened to receive them, and that a Determination upon them may be speedily, as the ratification in our opinion is of infinite importance to the Independance of America.

We are respectfully,

Sir,

Y^r most ob^t

Very hum^e Serv^ts,

WM. CLINGAN,

DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Thomas Wharton, Esquire, President of the Commonwealth of Pennsilvania, Lancaster.

* A copy of the confederation was rec'd by Council on Dec. 1st. See Col. Rec. Vol. XI., p 879.

Warrant for Pressing Waggons, 1777.

In Council of Safety, Lancaster, November 13, 1777.

Penn'sa, ss.

To the Constable of the township of

Whereas the most pressing application is made to us for a large number of waggons for the immediate supply of the Continental army. You are therefore required & commanded forthwith to supply from the township of by impressing or otherwise good waggons with a driver and four horses to each sufficiently furnished. These to be at Lancaster on or before Tuesday the eighteenth day of November instant, under the direction of Major George Ross deputy Quarter Master General. And you are hereby empowered to call to your aid, if necessary, the militia. Hereof fail not

G. B.

Matthew Irwin to Council, 1777.

Lancaster, 13th November, 1777.

Gentlemen,

Underneath you have a sketch of the mode in which I have regulated the Quarter Master Department of this State, if it sho'd be agreeable, request you will acquaint me thereof, or if your honours sho'd think any alterations necessary you will please point them out & I shall immediately comply therewith.

I am

your honors

' most obd't Servt.

MATTH'W IRWIN.

Directed,

To The Honourable The Executive Council of this State.

1st. I have appointed James Cummins Q^r M^r for Genl Irwin's Brigade.

2d. Edwd Millne Q^r M^r for Genl Potters Brigade.

3d. I have appointed a Forage Master for each Brigade, who is under the immediate direction of the Brigade q^r masters.

4th. I have agreed with General Mifflin, that his quarter masters shall pay for the Waggons employed by the Militia, at the same rate

allowed by Congress, upon producing a certificate signed by the quarter master of the Brigade in which the Waggons were employed.

5th. I have agreed with Gen[l] Mifflin that his Forage Master Gen[l] shall pay for the Forage used by the Militia, upon a certificate being produced signed by the militia Forage Masters & quarter masters.

6th. The Brigade quarter masters have hitherto acted as Commissarys of military Stores, which they are willing to continue to do, provided they are allowed majors pay & Rations for acting in both departm[ts], which I think they deserve, they are now allowed the pay & Rations of a Cap[tn].

Gen. Roberdeau to Pres't Wharton, 1777.

York Town, Nov[r] 14th, 1777.

D[r] Sir,

I thank you for your punctuality and care and acknowledge the receipt of the Books five in number, of which care shall be taken. You mention nothing of any agreement with the express, or whether paid or not, he charges 2 ½ days at six Dollars ℔ day, it may be right, although very high, for these reasons I take the liberty to refer the matter to you and beg you will pay the Bearer, which shall be reimbursed on the first notice, for besides the above at this instant, business is so pressing and important I cant attend to it, which is also my apology for breaking off so abruptly.

I am respectfully

D[r] Sir

y[r] very ob[t] friend & Serv[t]

DAN'L ROBERDEAU.

P. S. I have two Books in the hands of Mr. James Reed, one of w[h] Ovid I have not the same occasion of as when I wrote for it, and as these books were spared as a favour perhaps it will suit Mr. Reed to keep Ovid, otherwise I beg to rely on your punctuality for sending it forward to me ℔ first good private hand w[h] the Virgil, if my negligent friend Col. Bayard has not done it, prey forward me the regulation of prices.

Directed,

Timothy Matlack, Esq., Secretary Lancaster.

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